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Prayers for Services

A Manual for Leaders of Worship

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A Manual for Leaders of Worship

Compiled and Edited by

Morgan Phelps Noyes

Charles Scribner's Sons

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A

To the Church of God

Through the centuries a fellowship of prayer, bearing witness to the Help in ages past, and giving voice to the Hope for years to come.

PREFACE

It is hoped that this book may be of some help to the men and women in churches, schools, and elsewhere who are called upon to conduct services of worship. The more sensitive of spirit such people are, the more difficult do they find the task of leading others into the presence of God. They know that the worship of the Most High God demands an atmosphere of dignity, reverence, and above all reality. Whether they are accustomed to liturgical services, or to freer types of service, they know how easily monotony and consequent spiritual lethargy creep in. Attempts to make worship seem real by substituting the jargon of the street for the pure speech in which great emotions and lofty aspirations are appropriately expressed, are abhorrent to them. They know that there is no easy way into the realities of prayer, and that if they are to be mediators of the spiritual life it must be at the cost of a discipline which includes their own personal attitudes and also the language in which the soul's sincere desires are voiced.

This book contains a collection of prayers, gathered together in the hope that they may be useful to those who, not content to go carelessly into the most sacred of offices, are willing to prepare mind as well as heart for leadership in public worship. The book is not an anthology of devotional material selected primarily for historical purposes. The prayers included, while covering a wide range of centuries, are confined to those expressed in English sufficiently straightforward to make them useable today by those on whose lips the archaic language of some ancient prayers seems forced and unnatural. It is hoped that those who are accustomed to read prayers in their services will find in this collection those expressions of the devotional life into which they most desire to enter and to lead other people. Those who, as in most of the non-liturgical churches,

are accustomed to offer prayers of their own composition, either previously prepared in detail or extempore, will find in these historic and contemporary prayers ideas which will stimulate their own minds and help them to keep out of the well-worn grooves of thought and expression which are distressingly familiar to most bodies of worshippers. Because one of the principal sources of monotony in free prayer is the introductory phrase, which all too easily becomes habitual with a person frequently called upon to lead in public prayer, this book contains a considerable collection of addresses to the Deity appropriate for different types of prayer, which may at least suggest the wide possibilities of helpful variety so often overlooked. The prayers in the first part of this book are arranged in sections which correspond roughly with the order followed in many churches. In the later part of the book will be found prayers for various occasions.

A sincere effort has been made to achieve complete accuracy in recording the authorship of the material included in this volume. This has proved to be a difficult task, because of the frequency with which many prayers have been published without reference to sources. In the case of a few prayers, it has been impossible to discover the identity of the author. In such cases the title of the anthology in which the prayer was found has been given. It may be that in other cases errors appear in the list of sources. If so, the compiler offers his sincere apologies to those against whom he has unwittingly transgressed.

It would be impossible to name all those to whom the compiler owes his debt of gratitude for assistance in preparing this book. Most of all, of course, he is indebted to the Christian Church, out of whose rich life this heritage of spiritual treasure has come. A list of publishers and authors to whom he is more specifically indebted for the use of material appears on another page. A special debt is owed to the Reverend President Henry Sloane Coffin, of Union Theological Seminary, who is directly responsible for no part of the book except the prayers appearing over his own name, for the use of which he generously gave permission, but whose interest in Protestant wor-

ship and whose demonstration of the possibilities of a spiritual leadership which combines thought and feeling, have been the inspiration of this effort. To the Reverend Professor Reinhold Niebuhr, of Union Theological Seminary, and to the Reverend Albert Parker Fitch, formerly minister of the Park Avenue Presbyterian Church, New York City, thanks are due for the use of prayers which have not previously appeared in print. Miss Kathleen Nye and Mrs. Lorraine Smith have rendered valuable assistance in the preparation of the book for the publisher. Mr. William L. Savage, of Charles Scribner's Sons, at whose request the compiler undertook his pleasant task, has made helpful suggestions regarding the content as well as the arrangement of the book.

M. P. N.

MONTCLAIR, NEW JERSEY,
November, 1933.

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The Authorized (King James) Version of the Bible has been generally used in this book.

CONTENTS

	PAGE
The Prayer for the Choir Before Service	1
The Call to Worship	3
General	5
Evening	11
Communion	12
Old and New Year	14
Lent	15
Palm Sunday	17
Good Friday	17
Easter	18
Pentecost	18
Ascension Day	19
Memorial Day	20
Trinity Sunday	20
Children's Day	21
National Holidays	21
Labour Sunday	22
Thanksgiving Day	23
Advent	24
Christmas	26
The Prayer of Invocation	29
Address to the Deity	31
Prayers	35
For Use at Evening	48
The Prayer of Confession	53
Address to the Deity	55
Prayers	57
The Prayer of Thanksgiving	67
Address to the Deity	69
Prayers	70
For Use at Evening	81
The Prayer of Petition	83
Address to the Deity	85
Prayers	88
For the Desire to Seek God	88
For the Vision of God	89
For Knowledge of God	89
For Confidence in God	89
For Love to God	90
For the Presence of God	90
For Surrender to God	90
For Consecration	91
For Partnership with God	91
For Fellowship with God	92
For Life in God	92
For Refuge from the Storm	93
For the Peace of God	93
For the Joy of the Lord	93
For Christlikeness	94
For Knowledge of Christ	94
For the Blessedness of Christ	95
For Loyalty to Christ	95
For True Discipleship	95
For the Christlike Spirit	96
For Unity	96
For Wisdom	97
For Sure Judgment	97
For Perpetual Light	97
For Truth and Righteousness	98
For Faith	98
For Guidance	98

PAGE
For Insight 99
For Light 99
For Honest Minds 100
For Understanding 100
For Obedience 100
For Righteousness 101
For Courage 101
For Right Will 102
For Steadfastness 102
For Perseverance 102
For Diligence 103
For Faithful Service 103
For a Sense of Obligation 104
For the Spirit of Stewardship 104
For True Liberty 104
For Humility 104
For Grace to Make Amends 105
For Charity 105
For Watchfulness 105
For Reverence 106
For Gladness 106
For Health 106
For Fruitful Pain 107
For the Heavenly Mind 107
For Freedom from Fear 108
For Freedom from Care 108
For Quietness 108
For Peace at Evening 109
For Rest at Evening 109
For Repose 109
For Sympathy with Other Nations 110
For Youth 110
For Old Age 111
For Right Use of Fleeting Days 111
For Kindness 112
For Victory Over Temptation 112
For Spiritual Blessings 112
General Petitions 113

PAGE
THE PRAYER OF INTERCESSION 121
Address to the Deity 123
Prayers 124
For Comradeship of Nations 128
For Brotherhood 129
For International Peace 129
For International Friendship 131
For Our Country 131
For National Unity 132
For National Righteousness 132
For President and People 135
For Leaders of the People 135
For the Church 137
For Missions 139
For Christian Unity 141
For the Kingdom of God 141
For Industrial Peace 142
For the Workers of the World 142
For Men and Women in Business 143
For Social Righteousness 143
For Social Reformation 145
For Employers 146
For Those Who Labour 146
For Those Who Toil by Night 147
For the Unemployed 147
For the Indifferent 149
For Strangers in the Land 149
For Schools and Colleges 150
For Children 151
For Writers and Newspapermen 151

PAGE

For Ministers of Religion 152
For Physicians and Nurses 153
For the Afflicted 153
For Those Who Suffer 154
For a Sick Person 155
For the Mentally Diseased 155
For Those in Mental Darkness 156
For Time of Disaster 156
For the Unjustly Accused 156
For Those in Sorrow 157
For Travellers 157
For Friends and Kindred 157
For the Absent 158

THE PRAYER BEFORE THE SERMON 161

THE PRAYER AFTER THE SERMON 165

THE PRAYER AFTER THE OFFERING 169

PRAYERS FOR SPECIAL DAYS AND SEASONS 173

Address to the Deity 175
New and Old Year 175
Lent 176
Easter 176
Pentecost 177
National Holidays 177
Labour Day 178
All Saints' Day 179
Advent 179
Christmas 179
Prayers 180
The New Year 180
Ash Wednesday 183
Lent 183
Palm Sunday 185
Good Friday 187
Easter 188
Memorial Day 189
Pentecost 191
Children's Day 193
National Holidays 193
Labour Day 196
All Saints' Day 196
Election Day 198
After Election 199
Armistice Day 199
Thanksgiving Day 201
Advent 202
Christmas 205
Close of the Year 208

PRAYERS FOR SPECIAL SERVICES 211

The Ordination of a Minister 213
The Installation of a Pastor 213
The Ordination of Elders or Other Church Officers 214
The Ordination of Deacons 215
The Laying of a Cornerstone of a Church 215
The Dedication of a Church 215
The Anniversary of a Church 216
A Service of Music 216

PRAYERS FOR THE FUNERAL SERVICE 219

Address to the Deity 221
Prayers 222
Thanksgiving for Immortality 225
Thanksgiving for the Life of the Departed 226
For the Eternal Fellowship 227

PAGE

For the Bereaved 228
For Strength to Live 230
For Help 230
For Perfect Trust 230
For Knowledge of God 231
For the Comfort of God 231
For Faith 232
For Forgiveness 232
For Parents 232
For a Young Person 233
For a Child 233
For a Useful Woman 233
For a Minister 234

PRAYERS FOR THE MARRIAGE SERVICE 237

PRAYERS FOR THE COMMUNION SERVICE 241
After Communion 246

PAGE

PRAYERS FOR THE SERVICE OF BAPTISM 249
Baptism of Children 251
Baptism of a Child 251
Baptism of an Adult 252

PRAYERS FOR WEEK-DAY SERVICES 255
Morning 257
Evening 262

SOURCES 271

INDEX OF FIRST LINES OF PRAYERS 277

INDEX OF AUTHORS AND ANTHOLOGIES 288

CONCISE TOPICAL INDEX 291

Prayers for Services

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THE PRAYER FOR THE CHOIR BEFORE SERVICE

OPEN thou our lips, O Lord, and our mouths shall show forth thy praise. Inspire these thy choristers who have consecrated to thy service the gift of song wherewith thou hast endowed them. And so sustain them in their guidance of the congregation who are now met to praise thee, that thy holy name may be glorified, and thy people truly rejoice in thy presence. Help them so to bear themselves as they worship thee in thy sanctuary and lead the songs of Zion, that they shall be acceptable to thee in this their office, and make all thy people joyful; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen. [1]* *Adapted*

HUBERT SIMPSON

O GOD, our Heavenly Father, who hast called us to the sacred ministry of praise in the service of thy church, make us ready now to worship thee in spirit and in truth. Teach us to understand and love thy holy service, and help us to be reverent and attentive, guarding us from all wandering thoughts and unseemly actions, and make all that we shall say and do acceptable unto thee; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen. [5]

BOOK OF COMMON WORSHIP

GRANT us, O Lord, the help of thy Spirit in our hearts, that we may enter into thy holy presence with reverence and gladness and render a service acceptable unto thee; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen. [4]

BOOK OF OFFICES AND PRAYERS

*For further information concerning the source see corresponding number on pages 273–276.

THE CALL TO WORSHIP

THE CALL TO WORSHIP

GENERAL

ACQUAINT now thyself with God, and be at peace: thereby good shall come unto thee.

Yea, the Almighty shall be thy defence.

For then shalt thou have thy delight in the Almighty, and shalt lift up thy face unto God.

JOB 22:21, 25, 26

WAIT on the Lord: be of good courage, and he shall strengthen thine heart: wait, I say, on the Lord.

PSALM 27:14

LET all the earth fear the Lord: let all the inhabitants of the world stand in awe of him.

PSALM 33:8

THERE is a river, the streams whereof shall make glad the city of God, the holy place of the tabernacles of the most High.

God is in the midst of her; she shall not be moved: God shall help her, and that right early.

PSALM 46:4–5

BE still, and know that I am God: I will be exalted in the earth.

PSALM 46:10

O BLESS our God, ye people, and make the voice of his praise to be heard: which holdeth our soul in life, and suffereth not our feet to be moved.

PSALM 66:8–9

MY soul longeth, yea, even fainteth for the courts of the Lord; my heart crieth out for the living God.

PSALM 84:2

GOD is greatly to be feared in the assembly of the saints, and to be had in reverence of all them that are about him.

PSALM 89:7

O COME, let us worship and bow down: let us kneel before the Lord our maker.

For he is our God: and we are the people of his pasture, and the sheep of his hand.

PSALM 95:6–7

THE Lord is great, and greatly to be praised.

Honour and majesty are before him: strength and beauty are in his sanctuary.

Give unto the Lord the glory due unto his name: bring an offering, and come into his courts.

O worship the Lord in the beauty of holiness: fear before him, all the earth.

PSALM 96:4, 6, 8, 9

EXALT ye the Lord our God, and worship at his holy hill: for the Lord our God is holy.

PSALM 99:9

SERVE the Lord with gladness: come before his presence with singing.

Enter into his gates with thanksgiving, and into his courts with praise: be thankful unto him, and bless his name.

For the Lord is good; his mercy is everlasting; and his truth endureth to all generations.

PSALM 100:2, 4–5

O YE servants of the Lord, praise the name of the Lord.

From the rising of the sun unto the going down of the same the Lord's name is to be praised.

PSALM 113:1, 3

THIS is the day which the Lord hath made; we will rejoice and be glad in it.

PSALM 118:24

I WILL lift up mine eyes unto the hills, from whence cometh my help.

My help cometh from the Lord, who made heaven and earth.

PSALM 121:1–2

I WAS glad when they said unto me, Let us go into the house of the Lord.

PSALM 122:1

OUR help is in the name of the Lord, who made heaven and earth.

The Lord is nigh unto all them that call upon him, to all that call upon him in truth.

PSALM 124:8; 145:18

THEY that trust in the Lord shall be as Mount Zion, which cannot be removed, but abideth for ever.

As the mountains are round about Jerusalem, so the Lord is round about his people from henceforth even for ever.

PSALM 125:1–2

MY soul waiteth for the Lord more than they that wait for the morning.

Let Israel hope in the Lord: for with the Lord is mercy, and with him is plenteous redemption.

And he shall redeem Israel from all his iniquities.

PSALM 130:6–8

THE Lord is righteous in all his ways, and holy in all his works.

The Lord is nigh unto all them that call upon him, to all that call upon him in truth.

He will fulfill the desire of them that fear him; he also will hear their cry and will save them.

PSALM 145:17–19

PRAISE ye the Lord. Praise God in his sanctuary.

Praise him according to his excellent greatness.

Let everything that hath breath praise the Lord.

PSALM 150:1, 2, 6

SEEK ye the Lord while he may be found, call ye upon him while he is near:

Let the wicked forsake his way, and the unrighteous man his thoughts: and let him return unto the Lord, and he will have mercy upon him; and to our God, for he will abundantly pardon.

ISAIAH 55:6–7

THUS saith the high and lofty One that inhabiteth eternity, whose name is Holy: I dwell in the high and holy place, with him also that is of a contrite and humble spirit, to revive the spirit of the humble, and to revive the heart of the contrite ones.

ISAIAH 57:15

THUS saith the Lord, Let not the wise man glory in his wisdom, neither let the mighty man glory in his might, let not the rich man glory in his riches:

But let him that glorieth glory in this, that he understandeth and knoweth me, that I am the Lord which exercise loving kindness, judgment, and righteousness in the earth: for in these things I delight, saith the Lord.

JEREMIAH 9:23, 24

FOR I know the thoughts that I think toward you, saith the Lord, thoughts of peace.

Ye shall go and pray unto me, and I will hearken unto you.

And ye shall seek me, and find me, when ye shall search for me with all your heart.

JEREMIAH 29:11–13

COME, let us return unto the Lord: for he will heal us.

His going forth is prepared as the morning; and he shall come unto us as the rain, as the latter and former rain unto the earth.

HOSEA 6:1, 3

THE Lord is in his holy temple: let all the earth keep silence before him.

HABBAKUK 2:20

YET even now, saith the Lord, turn ye unto me with all your heart.

Turn unto the Lord your God; for he is gracious and full of compassion, slow to anger, and plenteous in mercy.

JOEL 2:12, 13

YOUR Father knoweth what things ye have need of, before ye ask him.

But seek ye first the Kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you.

MATTHEW 6:8, 33

ASK, and it shall be given you; seek, and ye shall find; knock, and it shall be opened unto you.

MATTHEW 7:7

COME unto me, all ye that labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest.

Take my yoke upon you, and learn of me; for I am meek and lowly in heart: and ye shall find rest unto your souls.

MATTHEW 11:28–29

THE hour cometh, and now is, when the true worshippers shall worship the Father in spirit and in truth: for the Father seeketh such to worship him.

God is spirit: and they that worship him must worship him in spirit and in truth.

JOHN 4:23–24

IF we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.

If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

I JOHN 1:8–9

No man hath seen God at any time.

If we love one another, God dwelleth in us, and his love is perfected in us.

God is love; and he that dwelleth in love, dwelleth in God and God in him.

I JOHN 4:12, 16

KNOW ye not that ye are the temple of God, and that the spirit of God dwelleth in you?

The temple of God is holy: which temple ye are.

I CORINTHIANS 3:16–17

YE are come unto Mount Zion, and unto the city of the living God, the heavenly Jerusalem, and to innumerable hosts of angels, to the general assembly and church of the first-born, who are enrolled in heaven, and to God the Judge of all.

Wherefore let us have grace, whereby we may offer service well-pleasing to God, with reverence and godly fear.

HEBREWS 12:19–23, 28

DRAW nigh to God, and he will draw nigh to you.

JAMES 4:8

HUMBLE yourselves under the mighty hand of God, that he may exalt you in due time: casting all your care upon him, for he careth for you.

I PETER 5:6–7

AND a voice came out of the throne, saying, Praise our God, all ye his servants, and ye that fear him, both small and great.

And I heard as it were the voice of a great multitude, and as the voice of many waters, and as the voice of mighty thunderings, saying, Alleluia: for the Lord God omnipotent reigneth.

Let us be glad and rejoice, and give honour to him.

REVELATION 19:5–7

AND I heard a great voice out of heaven saying, Behold, the tabernacle of God is with men, and he will dwell with them, and they shall be his people, and God himself shall be with them, and be their God.

REVELATION 21:3

EVENING

COMMIT thy way unto the Lord; trust also in him; and he shall bring it to pass.

And he shall bring forth thy righteousness as the light, and thy judgment as the noonday.

PSALM 37:5–6

REST in the Lord, and wait patiently for him.

Delight thyself also in the Lord; and he shall give thee the desires of thine heart.

PSALM 37:7, 4

THE Lord will command his lovingkindness in the daytime, and in the night his song shall be with me, and my prayer unto the God of my life.

PSALM 42:8

THE mighty God, even the Lord, hath spoken, and called the earth from the rising of the sun unto the going down thereof.

PSALM 50:1

CAST thy burden upon the Lord, and he shall sustain thee: he shall never suffer the righteous to be moved.

PSALM 55:23

TRUST in him at all times; ye people, pour out your heart before him: God is a refuge for us.

PSALM 62:8

I WILL hear what God the Lord will speak: for he will speak peace unto his people.

PSALM 85:8

HE that dwelleth in the secret place of the most High shall abide under the shadow of the Almighty.

I will say of the Lord, He is my refuge and my fortress; my God; in him will I trust.

PSALM 91:1–2

LIGHT is sown for the righteous, and gladness for the upright in heart.

Rejoice in the Lord, ye righteous; and give thanks at the remembrance of his holiness.

PSALM 97:11–12

BEHOLD, bless ye the Lord, all ye servants of the Lord, which by night stand in the house of the Lord.

Lift up your hands in the sanctuary, and bless the Lord.

PSALM 134:1, 2

THE day goeth away, for the shadows of evening are stretched out.

JEREMIAH 6:4

WHEN I fall, I shall arise; when I sit in darkness, the Lord shall be a light unto me.

He will bring me forth to the light, and I shall behold his righteousness.

MICAH 7:8–9

IT shall come to pass that at evening time it shall be light.

ZECHARIAH 14:7

THIS is the message which we have heard of him: that God is light, and in him is no darkness at all.

I JOHN 1:5

COMMUNION

O TASTE and see that the Lord is good: blessed is the man that trusteth in him.

PSALM 34:8

OH that men would praise the Lord for his goodness, and for his wonderful works to the children of men!

For he satisfieth the longing soul, and filleth the hungry soul with goodness.

PSALM 107:8–9

WHAT shall I render unto the Lord for all his benefits toward me?

I will take the cup of salvation, and call upon the name of the Lord.

I will pay my vows unto the Lord now in the presence of all his people.

PSALM 116:12–14

THEY that wait upon the Lord shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings as eagles; they shall run and not be weary; they shall walk and not faint.

ISAIAH 40:31

IT is written, Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceedeth out of the mouth of God.

MATTHEW 4:4

BLESSED are they which do hunger and thirst after righteousness: for they shall be filled.

MATTHEW 5:6

COME unto me all ye that labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest.

Take my yoke upon you and learn of me; for I am meek and lowly in heart: and ye shall find rest unto your souls.

For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light.

MATTHEW 11:28–30

LABOUR not for the meat which perisheth, but for that meat which endureth unto everlasting life, which the Son of Man shall give you.

JOHN 6:27

THE bread of God is he which cometh down from heaven, and giveth life unto the world.

I am the bread of life: he that cometh unto me shall never hunger, and he that believeth on me shall never thirst.

JOHN 6:33, 35

For our passover also hath been sacrificed, even Christ: wherefore let us keep the feast, not with the old leaven, neither with the leaven of malice and wickedness, but with the unleavened bread of sincerity and truth.

I Corinthians 5:7–8

Behold, I stand at the door and knock: if any man hear my voice and open the door, I will come in to him, and will sup with him, and he with me.

Revelation 3:20

And the Spirit and the bride say, Come. And he that heareth, let him say, Come. And he that is athirst, let him come: he that will, let him take the water of life freely.

Revelation 22:17

OLD AND NEW YEAR

Remember the days of old, consider the years of many generations.

Ascribe ye greatness unto our God.

He is the Rock, his way is perfect: for all his ways are judgment; a God of *truth,* and without iniquity.

Deuteronomy 32:7, 3–4

Days should speak, and multitude of years should teach wisdom.

Job 32:7

The counsel of the Lord standeth for ever, the thoughts of his heart to all generations.

Psalm 33:11

Great is the Lord, and greatly to be praised in the city of our God, in the mountain of his holiness.

This God is our God for ever and ever; he will be our guide even unto death.

Psalm 48:1, 14

IT is good for me to draw near to God; I have put my trust in the Lord God.

My flesh and my heart faileth; but God is the strength of my heart, and my portion for ever.

PSALM 73:28, 26

I WILL remember the years of the right hand of the most High.

PSALM 77:10

O GIVE thanks unto the Lord, for he is good; for his mercy endureth for ever.

PSALM 136:1

BEHOLD, I create new heavens and a new earth.

Be ye glad and rejoice for ever in that which I create: for, behold, I create Jerusalem a rejoicing, and her people a joy.

ISAIAH 65:17–18

CAST away from you all your transgressions, whereby ye have transgressed; and make you a new heart and a new spirit.

EZEKIEL 18:31

IF any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new.

COLOSSIANS 5:17

AND he that sat upon the throne said, Behold, I make all things new.

I am Alpha and Omega, the beginning and the end.

REVELATION 21:5–6

LENT

LET thy mind dwell upon the ordinances of the Lord, and meditate continually in his commandments: he shall establish thine heart, and thy desire of wisdom shall be given thee.

ECCLESIASTICUS 6:37

COME now, and let us reason together, saith the Lord: though your sins be as scarlet, they shall be as white as snow; though they be red like crimson, they shall be as wool.

ISAIAH 1:18

FOR thus saith the Lord God, the Holy One of Israel; In returning and rest shall ye be saved; in quietness and confidence shall be your strength.

ISAIAH 30:15

Is not this the fast that I have chosen? to loose the bands of wickedness, and to undo the heavy burdens, and to let the oppressed go free, and that ye break every yoke?

Then shall thy light break forth as the morning, and thine health shall spring forth speedily: and thy righteousness shall go before thee; the glory of the Lord shall be thy reward.

ISAIAH 58:6, 8

THEREFORE also now, saith the Lord, turn ye even unto me with all your heart.

And rend your heart, and not your garments, and turn unto the Lord your God: for he is gracious and merciful, slow to anger, and of great kindness.

JOEL 2:12–13

IT is written, Thou shalt worship the Lord thy God, and him only shalt thou serve.

MATTHEW 4:10

AND the apostles gathered themselves together unto Jesus; and he saith unto them, Come ye yourselves apart into a desert place, and rest awhile.

MARK 6:30, 31

I WILL arise and go to my Father, and will say unto him, Father I have sinned against heaven, and before thee, and am no more worthy to be called thy son.

LUKE 15:18–19

PALM SUNDAY

THE voice of rejoicing and salvation is in the tabernacles of the righteous.

Blessed be he that cometh in the name of the Lord.

PSALM 118:15, 26

BEHOLD, the Lord hath proclaimed unto the end of the world, Say ye to the daughter of Zion, Behold thy salvation cometh: behold, his reward is with him, and his work before him.

ISAIAH 62:11

REJOICE greatly, O daughter of Zion; shout, O daughter of Jerusalem: behold, thy King cometh unto thee: he is just, and having salvation; lowly, and riding upon an ass.

And he shall speak peace unto the nations.

ZECHARIAH 9:9–10

GOOD FRIDAY

Is it nothing to you, all ye that pass by?

Behold, and see if there be any sorrow like unto my sorrow.

LAMENTATIONS 1:12

IF any man would come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow me.

For whosoever would save his life shall lose it; and whosoever shall lose his life for my sake and the gospel's, shall save it.

MARK 8:34, 35

GOD commendeth his love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us.

ROMANS 5:8

LET us run with patience the race that is set before us, looking unto Jesus the author and finisher of our faith; who for the joy that was set before him endured the Cross, despising the shame, and is set down at the right hand of the throne of God.

HEBREWS 12:1–2

HEREUNTO were ye called: because Christ also suffered for us, leaving us an example, that ye should follow his steps.

I PETER 2:21

EASTER

LO, I am with you alway, even unto the end of the world.

MATTHEW 28:20

Now is Christ risen from the dead, and become the first fruits of them that slept.

I CORINTHIANS 15:20

THANKS be to God, which giveth us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.

I CORINTHIANS 15:57

I AM crucified with Christ: nevertheless I live; yet not I, but Christ liveth in me.

GALATIANS 2:20

IF ye then be risen with Christ, seek those things which are above, where Christ sitteth on the right hand of God.

COLOSSIANS 3:1

FEAR not, I am the first and the last: I am he that liveth, and was dead; and behold, I am alive for evermore.

REVELATION 1:18

PENTECOST

YE shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you, and ye shall be witnesses unto me both in Jerusalem, and in all Judaea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth.

ACTS 1:8

IT shall come to pass in the last days, saith God, I will pour out of my Spirit upon all flesh: and your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, and your young men shall see visions, and your old men shall dream dreams.

ACTS 2:17

As many as are led by the Spirit of God, they are the sons of God.

The Spirit itself beareth witness with our spirit, that we are the children of God.

ROMANS 8:14, 16

EYE hath not seen, nor ear heard, neither have entered into the heart of man, the things which God hath prepared for them that love him.

But God hath revealed them unto us by his Spirit: for the Spirit searcheth all things, yea, the deep things of God.

I CORINTHIANS 2:9–10

IF ye then, being evil, know how to give good gifts unto your children: how much more shall your heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to them that ask him?

LUKE 11:13

ASCENSION DAY

LIFT up your heads, O ye gates; even lift them up, ye everlasting doors; and the King of glory shall come in.

Who is this King of glory? The Lord of hosts, he is the King of glory.

PSALM 24:9–10

SEEING that we have a great High Priest, that is passed into the heavens, Jesus the Son of God, let us come boldly unto the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy, and find grace to help in time of need.

HEBREWS 4:14–16

BLESSING, and honour, and glory, and power, be unto him that sitteth upon the throne, and unto the Lamb for ever and ever.

REVELATION 5:13

MEMORIAL DAY

THOU shalt remember all the way the Lord thy God led thee.

DEUTERONOMY 8:2

THE righteous live for ever, and in the Lord is their reward, and the care of them with the most High.

Therefore shall they receive the crown of royal dignity and the diadem of beauty from the Lord's hand.

WISDOM OF SOLOMON 5:15–16

THE righteous shall be had in everlasting remembrance.

PSALM 112:6

LOOK at the generations of old, and see: did ever any trust in the Lord and was confounded? or did any abide in his fear and was forsaken? or whom did he ever despise that called upon him?

ECCLESIASTICUS 1:10

LET us now praise famous men, and our fathers that begat us.

The Lord manifested in them great glory, and their name liveth to all generations.

ECCLESIASTICUS 44:1, 2, 14

TRINITY SUNDAY

GOD, who commanded the light to shine out of darkness, hath shined in our hearts, to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ.

II CORINTHIANS 4:6

THE grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Ghost, be with you all.

II CORINTHIANS 13:14

Now in Christ Jesus ye who sometime were far off are made nigh.

For through him we both have access by one Spirit unto the Father.

EPHESIANS 2:13, 18

CHILDREN'S DAY

WHO shall ascend into the hill of the Lord? or who shall stand in his holy place?

He that hath clean hands, and a pure heart; who hath not lifted up his soul unto vanity, nor sworn deceitfully.

He shall receive a blessing from the Lord, and righteousness from the God of his salvation.

PSALM 24:3–5

REMEMBER now thy Creator in the days of thy youth.

ECCLESIASTES 12:1

BE strong in the Lord, and in the power of his might.

Take unto you the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand.

EPHESIANS 6:10, 13

SUFFER the little children to come unto me, and forbid them not; for of such is the Kingdom of God.

MARK 10:14

NATIONAL HOLIDAYS

BLESSED is the nation whose God is the Lord; and the people whom he hath chosen for his own inheritance.

PSALM 33:12

I WILL hear what God the Lord will speak; for he will speak peace unto his people.

Surely his salvation is nigh them that fear him; that glory may dwell in our land.

PSALM 85:8, 9

MANY nations shall come, and say, Come, and let us go up to the mountain of the Lord, and to the house of the God of Jacob; and he will teach us of his ways, and we will walk in his paths: for the law shall go forth of Zion, and the word of the Lord from Jerusalem.

MICAH 4:2

THEY shall beat their swords into ploughshares, and their spears into pruning hooks: nation shall not lift up sword against nation, neither shall they learn war any more.

MICAH 4:3

WHERE the Spirit of the Lord is, there is liberty.

II CORINTHIANS 3:17

YE shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free. If the Son therefore shall make you free, ye shall be free indeed.

JOHN 8:32, 36

STAND fast therefore in the liberty wherewith Christ hath made us free.

GALATIANS 5:1

LABOUR SUNDAY

WHEREWITH shall I come before the Lord, and bow myself before the high God?

He hath shewed thee, O man, what is good; and what doth the Lord require of thee, but to do justly, and to love mercy, and to walk humbly with thy God?

MICAH 6:8

COME unto me, all ye that labour and are heavy laden.

MATTHEW 11:28

JESUS answered them, My Father worketh even until now, and I work.

JOHN 5:17

WE are labourers together with God.

I CORINTHIANS 3:9

BE ye stedfast, unmoveable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, forasmuch as ye know that your labour is not in vain in the Lord.

I CORINTHIANS 15:58

THANKSGIVING DAY

WHEN the Lord thy God shall have brought thee unto the land which he sware unto thy fathers, to give thee great and goodly cities, which thou buildedst not, and houses full of all good things, which thou filledst not, and wells digged, which thou diggedst not, vineyards and olive trees, which thou plantedst not; when thou shalt have eaten and be full; then beware lest thou forget the Lord.

DEUTERONOMY 6:10–12

WHEN thou hast eaten and art full, then thou shalt bless the Lord thy God for the good land which he hath given thee: Lest thine heart be lifted up, and thou forget the Lord thy God and thou say in thine heart, My power and the might of mine hand hath gotten me this wealth.

But thou shalt remember the Lord thy God: for it is he that giveth thee power to get wealth, that he may establish his covenant which he sware unto thy fathers.

DEUTERONOMY 8:10, 14, 17, 18

THOU shalt rejoice in every good thing which the Lord thy God hath given unto thee, and unto thine house, thou, and the Levite, and the stranger that is among you.

DEUTERONOMY 26:11

THE earth is the Lord's, and the fulness thereof; the world, and they that dwell therein.

PSALM 24:1

OFFER unto God thanksgiving; and pay thy vows unto the most High.

PSALM 50:14

BLESSED be the Lord God, the God of Israel, who only doeth wondrous things. And blessed be his glorious name for ever: and let the whole earth be filled with his glory: Amen and Amen.

PSALM 72:18, 19

O GIVE thanks unto the Lord; for he is good: for his mercy endureth for ever.

PSALM 136:1

HONOUR the Lord with thy substance, and with the first fruits of all thine increase.

PROVERBS 3:9

ADVENT

SING unto the Lord, bless his name. Show forth his salvation from day to day.

For he cometh to judge the earth: he shall judge the world with righteousness, and the people with his truth.

PSALM 96:2, 13

I WAIT for the Lord, my soul doth wait, and in his word do I hope.

My soul waiteth for the Lord more than they that watch for the morning.

Let Israel hope in the Lord: for with the Lord there is mercy, and with him is plenteous redemption.

PSALM 130:5–7

AND therefore will the Lord wait, that he may be gracious unto you, and therefore will he be exalted, that he may have mercy upon you: for the Lord is a God of judgment: blessed are all they that wait for him.

ISAIAH 30:18

STRENGTHEN ye the weak hands, and confirm the feeble knees.

Say to them that are of a fearful heart, Be strong, fear not: behold, your God will come and save you.

ISAIAH 35:3–4

PREPARE ye the way of the Lord, make straight in the desert a highway for our God.

And the glory of the Lord shall be revealed, and all flesh shall see it together: for the mouth of the Lord hath spoken it.

ISAIAH 40:3, 5

SING and rejoice, O daughter of Zion: for, lo, I come, and I will dwell in the midst of thee, saith the Lord.

ZECHARIAH 2:10

Now it is high time for you to awake out of sleep: for now is salvation nearer to us than when we first believed.

The night is far spent, and the day is at hand: let us therefore cast off the works of darkness, and let us put on the armour of light.

ROMANS 13:11–12

THE Lord is at hand.

In nothing be anxious, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known unto God.

And the peace of God, which passeth all understanding, shall guard your hearts and your thoughts in Christ Jesus.

PHILIPPIANS 4:5, 6, 7

BEHOLD, the tabernacle of God is with men, and he will dwell with them, and they shall be his people, and God himself shall be with them and be their God.

REVELATION 21:3

CHRISTMAS

BLESSED be the Lord God of Israel, who only doeth wondrous things.

And blessed be his glorious name for ever: and let the whole earth be filled with his glory.

PSALM 72:18–19

THE people that walked in darkness have seen a great light: they that dwell in the land of the shadow of death, upon them hath the light shined.

ISAIAH 9:2

FOR unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given; and the government shall be upon his shoulder; and his name shall be called Wonderful, Counsellor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.

ISAIAH 9:6

SING, O heavens: and be joyful, O earth; and break forth into singing, O mountains: for the Lord hath comforted his people.

ISAIAH 49:13

How beautiful upon the mountains are the feet of him that bringeth good tidings, that publisheth peace, that bringeth good tidings of good, that publisheth salvation; that saith unto Zion, thy God reigneth.

ISAIAH 52:7

BLESSED be the Lord God of Israel; for he hath visited and redeemed his people, and hath raised up an horn of salvation for us in the house of his servant David.

LUKE 1:68–69

THE dayspring from on high hath visited us, to give light to them that sit in darkness and in the shadow of death, to guide our feet into the way of peace.

LUKE 1:78–79

And the angel said, Behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people.

For unto you is born this day, in the city of David, a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord.

Luke 2:10–11

Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward men.

Luke 2:14

In this was manifested the love of God towards us, because that God sent his only begotten Son into the world that we might live through him.

I John 4:9

THE PRAYER OF INVOCATION

THE PRAYER OF INVOCATION

ADDRESS TO THE DEITY

O God, our true Life, in whom and by whom all things live—[6]

O God, who bestowest thy mercy at all times on them that love thee, and in no place art distant from those that serve thee—[7]

O Heavenly Father, the Father of all wisdom, understanding, and true strength—[9]

O Thou that art the Light Eternal, the Son of Righteousness evermore rising and never going down—[10]

Eternal Light, before whom all darkness is light, and in comparison with whom every other light is but darkness—[11]

O God the Father, who alone satisfiest the desire of every living thing, who ordainest our strength for thy service, and grantest us intervals of rest for the renewal of our strength—[12]

Most Gracious God, in whom alone dwelleth fulness of light and wisdom—[13]

Almighty God, who hast called us to worship thee in spirit and in truth—[14]

O God, who hast commanded the light to shine out of darkness—[14]

Almighty God, in whom our fathers trusted—[14]

O God, who art the fountain of all wisdom—[14]

O God, whose inspiration giveth man understanding—[14]

O God, whom no eye hath seen nor can see, but who dost reveal thyself to the pure in heart—[14]

O Eternal God, whose glory fills all space, and who hast promised that where two or three are gathered together in thy name, thou wilt be in the midst of them—[14]

Father of Light, by whom we live and on whom our hopes are built—[15]

O God, seen of no human eye, heard of no human ear, whom yet our souls confess, our hearts crave, our thoughts seek, and our tongues praise—[15]

O God, in whose love we learn the meaning and through whose strength we bear the burden and cross of life—[15]

O thou whose throne is truth, and whose statutes are wisdom—[15]

O thou who art the source of all existence, and in whose life our lives are set—[15]

Almighty and all merciful God, the Source of all life, the Father of all spirits, and the Author of all good—[15]

O Lord our God, who art the Life of all, the Help of those that flee to thee, the Hope of those that cry unto thee—[24]

O Lord, our heavenly Father, by whose Spirit we have understanding, and who givest wisdom to all that ask thee—[16]

Eternal God, in whose light we see light, and in whose service is perfect freedom—[16]

O Lord of Truth, whom to know is everlasting life, and to serve is perfect freedom—[16]

Almighty God our heavenly Father, whom none but the pure in heart can know—[17]

MOST GRACIOUS FATHER, who art never far away from any of us and art found of them that diligently seek thee—[17]

ALMIGHTY GOD, who orderest the changing seasons, and sendest alternate day and night—[17]

O GOD, who hast formed all hearts to love thee, made all ways to lead to thy face, created all desire to be unsatisfied save in thee—[18]

O GOD, Source of the Light that never fades, and of the Life that never ends—[18]

SOUL OF THE UNIVERSE, Light of the mind of man, Spirit of Jesus Christ, who dwellest in all things, from whom and in whom, and unto whom we are—[18]

O GOD, who remainest the same though all else fades, who changest not with our changing moods, who leavest us not when we leave thee—[18]

O GOD, the Source of our being, the Goal of our desire, the Guide of these our pilgrim days—[18]

O GOD, who art visible only to the pure in heart, and can be known only by such as love the truth—[18]

O THOU who art to be found by those who truly seek thee, known by those who love, seen by those whose heart is pure—[18]

O LORD, whose favour is life, and in whose presence is fulness of joy—[2]

O FATHER OF ALL, who art Wisdom, and Beauty, and Goodness, whose Spirit ever strives in the souls of men—[19]

O ETERNAL GOD, who hast set within us a spirit which answers to thine own—[19]

O God, who by thy Spirit in our hearts dost lead men to desire thy perfection, to seek for truth, and to rejoice in beauty—[20]

O God, our great Companion, whose face all generations have sought, and whose will all ages have desired—[20]

O God, who art the Source of all our being, and the Goal of our best endeavour, who art above and beyond us, yet who dost manifest thyself within us—[20]

O God, in knowledge of whom standeth our eternal life, yet before whom we stand so often baffled, uncertain, seeking light long withheld—[20]

O God, thou great unseen Spirit, eternal and majestic, Ruler of the heavens and the earth, before whom a thousand years pass as a watch in the night, yet who art mindful of the sparrow that falleth, and the cup of cold water given to one in need—[20]

O God of all grace and truth, who art worthy of a nobler praise than our lips can utter, and of a greater love than we can give or understand—[20]

O God, by whose law the planets run their courses, by whose plan life has unfolded upon the earth, by whose inspiration scholars have searched for truth, prophets have spoken, and poets dreamed—[20]

O God, who speakest not in earthquake, wind, or fire, but ever through the still, small voice in the soul of man—[20]

O God, by whom the meek are guided in judgment, and light riseth up in darkness for the godly—[13]

Almighty God, who canst give the light that in darkness shall make us glad, the life that in gloom shall make us joy, and the peace that amidst discord shall bring us quietness—[21]

PRAYERS

ALMIGHTY GOD, who hast given us grace at this time with one accord to make our common supplications unto thee; and dost promise, that where two or three are gathered together in thy name thou wilt grant their requests; fulfil now, O Lord, the desires and petitions of thy servants, as may be most expedient for them; granting us in this world knowledge of thy truth, and in the world to come life everlasting. Amen. [22]

ST. CHRYSOSTOM

O LORD OUR GOD, who hast bidden the light to shine out of darkness, who hast again wakened us to praise thy goodness and ask for thy grace; accept now, in thy endless mercy, the sacrifice of our worship and thanksgiving, and grant unto us all such requests as may be wholesome for us. Make us to be children of the light and of the day, and heirs of thy everlasting inheritance. Remember, O Lord, according to the multitude of thy mercies, thy whole church; all who join with us in prayer; all our brethren by land or sea, or wherever they may be in thy vast Kingdom, who stand in need of thy grace and succour. Pour out upon them the riches of thy mercy, so that we, redeemed in soul and body, and steadfast in faith, may ever praise thy wonderful and holy name; through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen. [23]

GREEK CHURCH LITURGY

O LORD OUR GOD, great, eternal, wonderful in glory, who keepest covenant and promise for those that love thee with their whole heart, who art the life of all, the help of those that flee unto thee, the hope of those who cry unto thee, cleanse us from our sins, and from every thought displeasing to thy goodness. Cleanse our souls and bodies, our hearts and consciences, that with a pure heart and a clear mind, with perfect love and calm hope, we may venture confidently and fearlessly to pray unto thee. Amen. [24]

COPTIC LITURGY OF ST. BASIL

O God, Author of Eternal Light, do thou shed forth continual day upon us who watch for thee; that our lips may praise thee, our life may bless thee, our meditations may glorify thee; through Christ our Lord. Amen. [25]

Sarum Breviary

Almighty God, unto whom all hearts be open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hid, cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of thy Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love thee, and worthily magnify thy holy name; through Christ our Lord. Amen. [26]

Gregorian Sacramentary

O God of Peace, who hast taught us that in returning and rest we shall be saved, in quietness and confidence shall be our strength; by the might of thy spirit lift us, we pray thee, to thy presence, where we may be still and know that thou art God; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen. [27]

The Book of Common Prayer

O Almighty God, from whom every good prayer cometh, and who pourest out on all who desire it the spirit of grace and supplication, deliver us, when we draw nigh to thee, from coldness of heart and wanderings of mind, that with steadfast thoughts and kindled affections we may worship thee in spirit and in truth; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen. [28]

William Bright

O Lord our God, who art always more ready to bestow thy good gifts upon us than we are to seek them, and art willing to give more than we desire or deserve: help us so to seek that we may truly find, so to ask that we may joyfully receive, so to knock that the door of thy mercy may be opened unto us; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen. [29]

Book of Common Order of St. Giles' Cathedral

O Lord, our Heavenly Father, at the beginning of another week we come to thee for help and light. Grant, we beseech thee, that we may hallow this day of rest to thy service, and

find in thee all peace and strength. Quicken our devotion that we may serve thee in spirit and in truth, and lay a good foundation for our coming work. Be with us in all the public services of thy day, that we may join in them with heart and soul, and receive the blessing which thou hast promised to all who sincerely pray to thee and faithfully hear thy word. This we ask for the sake of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen. [30]

BISHOP BROOKE FOSS WESTCOTT

O LORD, who hast brought us through the darkness of night to the light of the morning, and who by thy Holy Spirit dost illumine the darkness of ignorance and sin; we beseech thee, of thy loving-kindness, to pour thy holy light into our souls, that we may ever be devoted to thee by whose wisdom we were created, by whose mercy we were redeemed, and by whose Providence we are governed; to the honour and glory of thy great name. Amen. [31]

BOOK OF HOURS

ETERNAL GOD, who hast neither dawn nor evening, yet sendest us the alternate mercies of the darkness and the day; there is no light but thine, without, within. As thou liftest the curtain of night from our abodes, take also the veil from all our hearts. Rise with thy morning upon our souls; quicken all our labour and our prayer; and, though all else decline, let the noontide of thy grace and peace remain. May we walk, while it is yet day, in the steps of him who, with fewest hours, finished thy divinest work. [32]

JAMES MARTINEAU

O GOD, who givest us not only the day for labour and the night for rest, but also the peace of this blessed day; grant, we beseech thee, that its quiet may be profitable to us in heavenly things, and refresh and strengthen us to finish the work which thou hast given us to do; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen. [32]

JAMES MARTINEAU

O God, who art, and wast, and art to come, before whose face the generations rise and pass away, age after age the living seek thee and find that of thy faithfulness there is no end. Our fathers in their pilgrimage walked by thy guidance, and rested on thy compassion. Still to their children be thou the cloud by day, and the fire by night. Where but in thee have we a covert from the storm, or shadow from the heat of life? In our manifold temptations, thou alone knowest and art ever nigh; in sorrow, thy pity revives the fainting soul; in our prosperity and ease, it is thy Spirit only that can keep us from pride and keep us humble. O thou sole Source of Peace and Righteousness, take now the veil from every heart, and join us in one communion with thy prophets and saints who have trusted in thee and were not ashamed. Not of our worthiness, but of thy tender mercy hear our prayer; for the sake of Jesus Christ thy Son our Lord. Amen. [32]

James Martineau

God of all grace, grant unto us thy peace that passeth understanding, that the quietness that comes from friendliness with man, and true Divine friendship with thee may possess our souls; that we, withdrawn awhile from the turmoil of the world, may gather the strength that we have lost, and established and strengthened by thy grace, pass on through all the troubles of this our earthly life, safe into the haven of eternal rest, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen. [21]

George Dawson

Almighty and Everlasting God, in whom we live and move and have our being, who hast created us for thyself, so that our hearts are restless till they find rest in thee, grant unto us purity of heart and strength of purpose so that no selfish passion may hinder us from knowing thy will, and no weakness from doing it. In thy light may we see life clearly, and in thy service find perfect freedom. For thy mercy's sake. Amen. [33]

John Watson

Almighty God, who art our Father, we lift up our hearts to thee, invoking thy blessing and benediction upon our wor-

ship. Thou hast made us one in our need of thee, one in our desire for thy fellowship, one in our common hope of life everlasting; and we beseech thee now to unite us in the holy communion of prayer. Cleanse our hearts and our hands, that we may ascend to thy holy hill, and worship the Lord in the beauty of holiness. We give thee thanks, O Lord, for this day of prayer, and for this place of quiet, set amid our hurrying life, hallowed by memories of days gone by, and dedicated to the life of the soul and the service of faith. May it be to us a place of rest and joy, of light and revelation; so manifest thyself to us that all that is best in us may be called forth to praise thee, who art the health of our countenance and our God. Amen. [144] *Abridged*

JOSEPH FORT NEWTON

ALMIGHTY GOD, who art beyond the reach of our highest thought, and yet within the heart of the lowliest; we pray thee to come to us in all the beauty of light, in all the tenderness of love, in all the liberty of truth, and make thyself known to us. Mercifully help us in the struggle to be pure and good; encourage us in every effort to be true, loyal and loving; to do justly, to love mercy and to walk humbly with thee. Sanctify all our desires and purposes, and upon each of us let thy blessing rest. Amen. [16]

SERVICE BOOK AND ORDINAL OF THE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF SOUTH AFRICA

O LORD OUR GOD, satisfy us in the morning with thy mercy, that we may rejoice and be glad all the day. Be a refuge to us from the harsh demands of the world, from the strife of life, and from the oppression of selfish thoughts and moods. Deliver us from all the vain things which have such power over us; help us to quiet our souls in thee, and learn what it is to rest in God. May the Spirit that spake by the prophets, and dwelt in thy Son without measure, take entire possession of us, that we may worship in great humility and thankfulness, and pray in great faith, in all charity, and in the love of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen. [15] *Abridged*

JOHN HUNTER

ALMIGHTY GOD, the Ever Blessed, the Ever Holy, whose mercy is from everlasting to everlasting, and whose strength is perfected in our weakness, help us now to draw near to thee, that with mind and heart we may worship thee. We bring to thee the thirst we cannot quench at any earthly spring, and the hunger which is only satisfied by every word that proceedeth out of the mouth of God. Lift us out of our shadows into thy light, out of our fears into thy comfortable thoughts, out of our perplexities into thy clear truth, out of our burdens into thy strength, out of our foolish and disappointed purposes into thy holy and blessed will, out of our troubles into thy peace. For sin give repentance, for sorrow give trust, from the strife of passion and care grant rest, and do thou visit indifference with thy quickening power. Give us that great faith in thee which will fill us with peace with the known that surrounds us, and with the unknown that is above and beyond us; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen. [15] *Abridged*

JOHN HUNTER

ALMIGHTY GOD, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, and our Father; help us now as we seek through our prayers to draw near unto thee; to bow our wills to thine, and to yield our spirits to the influence of thy Holy Spirit. Help us as we would worship thine eternal goodness; meditate on the unwearied mercy of which we are constant partakers; confess our shortcomings and sins, and give ourselves up to be led by thee in the ways of purity and peace. In thine infinite love, be found of our seeking. Amen. [15]

JOHN HUNTER

ALMIGHTY AND ALL MERCIFUL GOD, the Source of all life, the Father of all spirits, and the Author of all good, grant that we may be of one heart with all thy worshippers everywhere who lift up to thee the voice of praise and thanksgiving. Thou dost seek and meet us in all the simple things around us, in the riches of nature, in the love which binds us to the living and the dead, in our daily cares, and in all the calls of duty, in our

gladness and in our grief. Teach us to discern thee, and let the veils that hide thee from us be taken away. Lift us above our doubt and fear into communion with the mind and spirit of Jesus Christ. Amen. [15]

JOHN HUNTER

MOST HOLY AND MOST GRACIOUS GOD, who turnest the shadow of night into morning, satisfy us early with thy mercy, that we may rejoice and be glad all the day. Lift the light of thy countenance upon us; calm every troubled thought; and guide our feet into the way of peace. Perfect thy strength in our weakness, and help us to worship thee; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen. [15]

JOHN HUNTER

O THOU in whom we live and move and have our being, who art within our thoughts and desires, thou art nearer to us than any creature, yet we cannot by searching find thee out. Thou art farther from us than the east is from the west; yet thou revealest thyself on every side, and in all places of thy dominion. Grant unto us, who now feel after thee, the inward succour of thy Spirit. Send us help from above, and show unto us thy heavenly light. Keep us from the folly of thinking that we know thee fully, and from the sorrow of imagining that thou art too great to be known at all. May our thoughts of thee be just and true, and our feelings toward thee full of reverence and love. Amen. [34]

A BOOK OF OFFICES AND PRAYERS

O GOD, who hast folded back the mantle of the night to clothe us in the golden glory of the day, chase from our hearts all gloomy thoughts, and make us glad with the brightness of hope, that we may effectively aspire to unwon virtues, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen. [34]

BISHOP CHARLES H. BRENT

O THOU ETERNAL SPIRIT, who hast set our noisy years in the heart of thy eternity, lift us above the strife and evil of the passing time, that under the shadow of thy wings we may take courage and be glad. So great art thou, beyond our utmost imagin-

ing, that we could not speak to thee didst thou not first draw near to us and say, "Seek ye my face." Unto thee our hearts would make reply, "Thy face, Lord, will we seek." Oh deliver us from the bondage of unchastened desires and unwholesome thoughts. Help us to conquer hopeless brooding and faithless reflection, and the impatience of irritable weakness. To this end, increase our faith, O Lord. Fill us with a completer trust in thee, and the desire for a more whole-hearted surrender to thy will. Amen. [35] *Abridged*

SAMUEL MCCOMB

ETERNAL, Holy, Almighty, whose name is Love, we are met in solemn company to seek thy face, and in spirit and truth to worship thy name. We come in deep humility, since thou art so high and exalted, and because thou beholdest the proud afar off. We come in tender penitence, for the contrite heart is thy only dwelling. We come in the name and spirit of Jesus to make our wills one with thine; to abandon our lonely and selfish walk for solemn communion with thee, to put an end to sin by welcoming to our hearts thy holy presence. Deeper than we have known, enter, thou Maker of our souls; clearer than we have ever seen, dawn thy glory on our sight. Light the flame upon the altar, call forth the incense of prayer, waken the song of praise, and manifest thyself to all. Amen. [18]

W. E. ORCHARD

O GOD, whose Spirit searchest all things, and whose Love bearest all things, encourage us to draw near to thee in sincerity and in truth. Save us from a worship of the lips while our hearts are far away. Save us from the useless labour of attempting to conceal ourselves from thee who searchest the heart.

Make us strong enough to bear the vision of the truth, and to have done with all falsehood, pretence, and hypocrisy, so that we may see things as they are, and fear no more.

Enable us to look upon the love which has borne with us and the heart that suffers for us. Help us to acknowledge our

dependence on the purity that abides our uncleanness, the patience that forgives our faithlessness, the truth that forbears all our falsity and compromise. And may we have the grace of gratitude, and the desire to dedicate ourselves to thee. Amen. [18]

W. E. ORCHARD

ALMIGHTY GOD, the Giver of all true thoughts and resolves and Rewarder of them that diligently seek thee; visit us, we beseech thee, in this place of sacred memories and aspirations that we may with a morning gladness of soul know and rejoice in that love in which all human griefs are transfigured and common things become divine. Make for us here a refuge from the stress and turmoil of earthly things. Dispel the clouds of our distrust and our coldness to the things which are spiritual and eternal. Unite us with those who have sought thee in trouble and been delivered, or uttering all the sadness of their hearts and their contrition have gone down to their houses justified, or exulting in thy favour have grown strong to do and endure thy holy will. And grant that living in like sincerity and humbleness of mind we may with them escape the misery of unshared joys and griefs and remain in unbroken fellowship with their Saviour and ours, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen. [17]

HUGH CAMERON

ALMIGHTY GOD, who dwellest in light unapproachable, whom no man hath seen or can see; grant that we may know thee in him whom thou hast given to be the light of the world, our Saviour Jesus Christ, and in the joy of his gospel may worship thee in spirit and in truth. [17]

HUGH CAMERON

O GOD, who appointest all things to a destined and holy end, and requirest of man a reasonable service; quicken in us we beseech thee the sense of a gracious presence and power in the world, of a providence that never slumbers, of a love that never fails, and so unite us with thyself in our aspirations and thoughts that with our whole might doing those things which

please thee we may live in thy favour and in that light which ever broadens to the perfect day. Keep us this day, we beseech thee, without fear, without sin, without distrust, and through meditation and prayer prepare us for another week of faithful labour and generous service of our brethren; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen. [17]

HUGH CAMERON

ALMIGHTY AND MOST GRACIOUS FATHER, who girdest the feeble with strength and clothest the dry and barren soul with righteousness and power; awake us to the glory of thy presence in earth and sky. Set our hands to works of faith and charity, and so create us anew in the likeness of thy Son, that we may toil and not faint, suffer and not complain, and meet all trials with a steadfast and enduring mind, having our treasure in heaven. [17]

HUGH CAMERON

O THOU HOLY ONE, who inhabitest eternity, visit us with the inward vision of thy glory, that we may bow our hearts before thee, and obtain that grace which thou hast promised to the lowly, through Jesus Christ our Saviour. Amen. [3]

THE BOOK OF COMMON WORSHIP

GRANT unto us, Almighty God, that we, communing with one another and with thee, may feel our hearts burn within us; until all pure and just and holy things are lovely to us, and we find nothing to fear but that which is hateful in thine eyes. Let thy peace possess our souls, while we look to thy loving kindness and tender mercy to lift us above that which is low and mean; and, at last, give to the spirit within us a perfect victory, and bring us safe through death into life everlasting. Amen. [36]

SERVICES FOR CONGREGATIONAL WORSHIP

O LORD OUR GOD, who turnest into morning the shadows of night, grant that we may be children of the light and of the day. Let the sun of thy righteousness shine in our hearts. Enlighten our minds, animate our consciences, and purify our

affections. We give ourselves to thee this day. So rule and govern us by thy spirit that faithless distrust and all evil thoughts may be driven from our minds; that we may walk with joy in the light of thy countenance and in the way of thy salvation. Amen. [36]

SERVICES FOR CONGREGATIONAL WORSHIP

O GOD, who makest thyself known in the stillness; let us feel thy presence in this sacred place; make us to be of the company of brave saints who have worshipped here in spirit and in truth; through the voices of men and the instruments of praise give us to lift our heart to thee; and so, O Lord, purify our lives that, going forth into the world, we may go in thy strength and in thy love; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen. [37] *Adapted*

CHARLES LEWIS SLATTERY

O LORD OUR GOD, who hast promised that in all places where thou dost record thy name thou wilt meet with thy people to bless them, behold our spirits, which eagerly and penitently we lay upon thine altar. Here is our slender store of fears and hopes and ambitions, the little ever shifting group of faiths and doubts, decisions and uncertainties which make up our lives. Here are our inmost selves, where good and evil, the petty and the great are so intricately mingled. The pleasures that we dread and the joys that we despise we would put away from us now. That precious gladness that is fed with secret tears we would offer unto thee. We are ringed around with ignorance, with frailty, with conceit. Enlighten our darkness, purge us of our weaknesses, shame us out of our arrogance and hardness and pride. Take us now, unto thyself. Replenish the secret springs of our very beings with the water of life.

O Eternal Light, shine into our hearts. O Eternal Goodness, deliver us from evil. O Eternal Power, be thou our support. With all our hearts and minds and strength, we seek thy face. Through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen. [38]

ALBERT PARKER FITCH

DEEPEN and quicken within us, O God, the sense of thy presence, and refresh us with thy power. Quiet our understandings and give ease to our hearts by bringing us close to things infinite and eternal; grant us dignity in our own eyes by taking us into thy service; humble us by laying bare before us our littleness and our sin, and then exalt us by revealing thyself to us as our Counsellor, our Father, and our Friend; and do thou make us springs of strength and joy to those whom thou hast sent us to serve. Amen. [39]

PRAYERS FOR THE CHRISTIAN YEAR

O THOU, in whose life we find our life, through the gift of whose spirit we do our work and bear our burdens; grant us now the sense of thy nearness. We would open our hearts freely to thy Spirit, our minds to thy law, and our wills to thy quickening energy. Dwell in us and make us fruitful. Amen. [39]

PRAYERS FOR THE CHRISTIAN YEAR

MOST GRACIOUS GOD, who art ever more ready to hear than we are to pray; who knowest our necessities before we ask and our ignorance in asking, behold us here, coming from all our various homes and works, with all our different faults and needs, asking in a common prayer for light upon our way and for peace within our hearts. And even as we come thy Spirit meets us—yes, waits for us while we are yet a long way off—waits to receive, and forgive, and bless. What is our prayer but an answer to thy call? What is our worship but the return of the wandering child back to the Father's home? Give us the listening ear; give us the responsive will; and bring such answer to each sincere and simple prayer as each one of us severally needs; giving to one of us more courage, and to another more self-restraint, and to yet another freedom from selfishness and self-interest, and to us all the inner peace of mind which the world can neither give nor take away. Here are the rich resources of our favoured lives—health, strength, youth, joy, love. Rescue us from the meagre use of thy great gifts, that at thy coming we may return thy trusts with interest. Maintain in us the fidelity of those to whom much has been

given and from whom much will be required, that we may hear at last the kindly benediction, Well done, good and faithful servant! Enter into the joy of thy Lord. [40]

FRANCIS G. PEABODY

O GOD, Eternal Source of Wisdom, Power, and Love, lead us through all the changes and chances of this mortal life, to rest our spirits upon those eternal foundations which thou hast laid for us, to pierce through the transient and superficial to that which abides. Save us, O God, from fever and restlessness, from haste and confusion, from noise and perpetual movement. Draw us back into those recesses of the spirit where Jesus was one with thee. Lift our vision that we may see the appeal of some task that is commensurate with thy greatness. Before all voices which whisper to us of ease and caution and compromise, make us to feel the compulsion of thy desires, and the power of thy indwelling love. Lead us to a deeper understanding of thy message to us and to our world in Jesus Christ. Amen. [20]
Adapted

ELMORE MCNEIL MCKEE

O GOD, the Inspirer of our common worship, and the Reward of all our seeking, visit, we pray thee, this congregation and each of us with thy indwelling spirit; unite us in fellowship with thy worshippers in all lands; and grant that our thoughts and words and the unspoken longings of our hearts may be acceptable in thy sight, and may be offered in the name of our Master Jesus Christ. Amen. [20]

ELMORE MCNEIL MCKEE

ALMIGHTY AND EVERLASTING GOD, whom the heaven of heavens cannot contain, much less the temples which our hands have builded, but who art ever nigh unto the humble and the contrite; shed down the Holy Spirit, we beseech thee, on all who are here assembled: that cleansed and illumined by thy grace, we may worthily show forth thy praise, meekly learn thy word, render due thanks for thy mercies, and obtain a gracious answer to our prayers, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen. [45]

A MANUAL OF MEDITATION

FOR USE AT EVENING

ETERNAL FATHER, by whose goodness we have been brought unto the evening of this day in peace, be pleased to accept our unworthy worship, and to fulfil our requests as thou mayest judge best for thy servants and most for thy glory. Give us honest hearts to receive thy word, and the will to keep thy commandments; preserve us through the coming night safe from every hurtful accident, and bring us unto the light of another day. Through the light and through the dark be thou our guide, and may the angel of thy peace go before thy servants until we come to the holy hill where our rest and thine honour dwelleth, and unto thee shall be the praise for ever, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen. [33]

JOHN WATSON

THINE, O Lord, is the day, and thine is the night; cover our sins with thy mercy as thou dost cover the earth with darkness; and grant that the Sun of Righteousness may ever shine in our hearts, to chase away the darkness of evil thoughts; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen. [13]

BOOK OF COMMON ORDER

ALMIGHTY GOD, Lord of Peace, and Giver of Rest; grant unto us at eventide as well as at noonday the light of thy countenance, that we may see thy truth and our duty, and so behold thy glory, that we may grow into thy likeness. May we feel thee to be near, and know thee to be good, and that thy mercy is from everlasting to everlasting. Lifting our hearts together, may we find thee in our seeking, and with thee all that is best and most abiding. [15]

JOHN HUNTER

O THOU whose chosen dwelling is the heart that longs for thy presence and humbly seeks thy face, we come to thee as the day declines and the shadows of evening fall. Deepen within us every feeling of shame and sorrow for the wrong we have done, for the good we have left undone; and

strengthen every desire to amend our lives according to thy holy will. Restore to us the joy of thy salvation; bind up that which is broken; re-kindle the sacred fire; give light to our minds, strength to our wills, and rest to our souls; according to thy lovingkindness in Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen. [15]

JOHN HUNTER

LORD of the evening hour, who hast often met with us at the close of day, be our refuge now from the noise of the world and the care of our own spirits. Grant us thy peace. Let not the darkness of our ignorance and folly, of our sorrow and sin hide thee from us. Draw near to us that we may be near to thee. Speak to each of us the word that we need, and let thy word abide in us till it has wrought in us thy holy will. Quicken and refresh our hearts, renew and increase our strength, so that we may grow into the likeness of thy faithful children, and by our worship at this time be enabled better to serve thee in our daily life in the spirit of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen. [15]

JOHN HUNTER

ACCEPT, we beseech thee, our evening thanksgiving, O thou Fountain of goodness, who hast led us in safety through the length of the day. Mercifully enlighten our minds, and give us a firm and abiding trust in thy Fatherly love and care. Silence our murmurings, quiet our fears, and dispel our doubts; that rising above our anxieties and cares, we may rest on thee, the Rock of everlasting strength. Be present, O Lord, to these our prayers, that we may be cleansed and protected from all evil; and grant to us such strength as may support us in all adversities, and carry us through all temptations; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen. [16]

SERVICE BOOK AND ORDINAL OF THE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF SOUTH AFRICA

As we have come into this place of prayer, out of darkness into light, out of the drear night into the shelter of home, out of our loneliness into the fellowship of the saints, so may we come, O God, to thee; from all cloud and shadow, from

all falsehood and unreality, to truth, to certainty, to the welcome of thine arms and the shining of thy face.

May no indocility of temper, no indolence of mind, no perversity of spirit cloud the vision of thyself, or bar our breast against thine entering in. May we dare to leave the door upon the latch to truth, to Christ, to thee.

Thou knowest all the unhappiness of our life, its weariness, sadness and strain, the feeling that no one cares, that the game is nearly done, and life can hold no more light and comfort for us. If thou hast nothing more to give, we are of all men most miserable.

Make known to us, we pray, the blessedness of those who serve thee, the joy of the Cross, the rest of those who wear Christ's easy yoke, and may we be comforted and made glad. Grant to us that last great grace of life which transforms all things and renews the soul: the sense of thy friendship and nearness, a hand in ours, a companion on the weary way, a light within the heart. So redeem the days we have wasted, reveal the meaning of the life we have so nearly lost, lift from us the melancholy of our mistakes, and turn all our mourning into joy. Amen. [18]

W. E. Orchard

Almighty and Most Merciful God, who hast appointed our portion of labour, that we may serve thee while it is day, and by whose ordinance the night cometh, that we may seek our rest in thee; we beseech thee to draw our hearts unto thy dear Son, that we may receive of him the rest promised unto the heavy-laden; and being forgiven by his mercy, comforted by his word, and lifted up by his fellowship, we may find in this hour of worship a blessing for our souls; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen. [3]

The Book of Common Worship

Abide with us, O searching and chastening Spirit of the living God, for it is evening and the day is far spent. Let the shadow of thy presence shelter us from the haste and fret of the day, and the sense of thy tranquillizing guidance give us

peace and rest. From all the blunders and follies of the day; from its wandering desires and its unjust judgments; from any sense of grievance or any word of blame which has blotted the fair hours, good Lord, deliver us. May the perplexing problems and petty cares of the day relax their grasp, and the meaning of life shine through the gathering dusk like the watching stars. Lift our minds to the vision of the permanent; rescue our wills from the illusions of the day's gain or loss; that the pressure of routine may not crush the life of the spirit, or the gain of the world become the loss of the soul. May we rest tonight in the protecting shadow of thy love, and wake with new courage and hope to fulfil the duties of another day. [40]

FRANCIS G. PEABODY

THE PRAYER OF CONFESSION

THE PRAYER OF CONFESSION

ADDRESS TO THE DEITY

O God, who art good to all, and whose tender mercies are over all thy works—[14]

O Thou who searchest the heart and knowest how frail we are—[15]

O Thou who art Lord and Judge and yet our Father—[15]

O God, who desirest that all should know thee, and knowing thee, be delivered from haunting memories of a past time of transgression—[17]

Almighty God, who hast placed us amid divers temptations and dowered us with impulses and passions which lead to evil as well as to good—[17]

O Thou who hast visited the children of men with thy presence, and hast made us conscious of our ignorance, sin, and frailty—[18]

Merciful Father, whose faithfulness abides all our fickleness, whose forgiveness outlasts our sins—[18]

Almighty and Most Merciful God, the Fountain of all goodness, who knowest the thoughts of our hearts—[42]

O God, Father of all, from whom we go away as children into a far country, and to whom we return in humility and with joy—[20]

O God, who resistest the proud, and givest grace to the humble—[3]

Almighty and Everlasting God, who hatest nothing that thou hast made, and dost forgive the sins of all them that are penitent—[27]

O God, who dost not deal with us after our sins, nor reward us according to our iniquities—[14]

O God, whose mercy is from everlasting to everlasting upon them that fear thee—[14]

O God, who sufferest long and art kind—[14]

Almighty and Most Loving Father, who, if we know and confess our sins, art faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness—[17]

Lord of our living conscience, who speakest to us in the voice of duty, and pleadest with us in the grief of sin—[32]

O Lord God, who art nigh unto them that are of a broken heart, and savest such as be of a contrite spirit—[14]

O God, whose mercy is from everlasting to everlasting upon them that fear thee—[14]

O God, Searcher of hearts, in whom is no darkness, and from whom our sins cannot be covered—[13]

O Searcher of hearts, who knowest us better than we know ourselves, and seest the sins which our sinfulness hides from us—[32]

O God, whose mercy reacheth unto the heavens, and thy righteousness unto the clouds—[43]

O Thou who knowest our hearts, and who seest our temptations and struggles—[44]

Almighty God, who forgivest all things to those that cry unto thee—[21]

O God of Strength, passing all understanding, who mercifully givest to thy people mercy and judgment—[25]

PRAYERS

ALMIGHTY AND MERCIFUL GOD, the Fountain of all goodness, who knowest the thoughts of our hearts, we confess unto thee that we have sinned against thee, and done evil in thy sight. Wash us, we beseech thee, from the stains of our past sins, and give us grace and power to put away all hurtful things; so that, being delivered from the bondage of sin, we may bring forth worthy fruits of repentance.

O Eternal Light, shine into our hearts. O Eternal Goodness, deliver us from evil. O Eternal Power, be thou our support. Grant unto us that with all our hearts, and minds, and strength, we may ever more seek thy face. Through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen. [46] *Abridged*

ALBINUS FLACCUS ALCUINUS

ALMIGHTY AND EVERLASTING GOD, who art always more ready to hear than we to pray, and art wont to give more than either we desire or deserve, pour down upon us the abundance of thy mercy, forgiving us those things whereof our conscience is afraid, and giving us those good things which we are not worthy to ask, but through the merits and mediation of Jesus Christ, thy Son, our Lord. Amen. [47]

LEONINE SACRAMENTARY

ALMIGHTY AND MOST MERCIFUL FATHER; we have erred, and strayed from thy ways like lost sheep. We have followed too much the devices and desires of our own hearts. We have offended against thy holy laws. We have left undone those things which we ought to have done; and we have done those things which we ought not to have done; and there is no health in us. But thou, O Lord, have mercy upon us, miserable offenders. Spare thou those, O God, who confess their faults. Restore thou those who are penitent; according to thy promises declared unto mankind in Christ Jesus our Lord. And grant, O most merciful Father, for his sake; that we may hereafter live a godly, righteous, and sober life, to the glory of thy holy name. Amen. [27]

THE BOOK OF COMMON PRAYER

ALMIGHTY GOD, Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, Maker of all things, Judge of all men; we acknowledge and bewail our manifold sins and wickedness, which we, from time to time, most grievously have committed, by thought, word, and deed, against thy Divine Majesty, provoking most justly thy wrath and indignation against us. We do earnestly repent, and are heartily sorry for these our misdoings; the remembrance of them is greivous unto us; the burden of them is intolerable. Have mercy upon us, have mercy upon us, most merciful Father; for thy Son our Lord Jesus Christ's sake, forgive us all that is past; and grant that we may ever hereafter serve and please thee in newness of life, to the honour and glory of thy name; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen. [27]

BOOK OF COMMON PRAYER

ALMIGHTY GOD, our Heavenly Father, who of thy great mercy hast promised forgiveness of sins to all them that with hearty repentance and true faith, turn unto thee; have mercy upon us; pardon and deliver us from all our sins; confirm and strengthen us in all goodness; and bring us to everlasting life; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen. [27] *Adapted*

BOOK OF COMMON PRAYER

O MOST MIGHTY GOD AND MERCIFUL FATHER, who hast compassion on all men, and hatest nothing that thou hast made: who wouldest not the death of a sinner, but rather that he should turn from his wickedness and live: mercifully forgive us our trespasses; receive and comfort all who are grieved and wearied with the burden of their sins; enable us to overcome our temptations, and henceforth to live a godly, righteous and sober life, to the glory of thy holy name, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen. [48]

BOOK OF CHURCH SERVICES

PARDON all that we have done in wilful or thoughtless disregard of thy honour and of our neighbour's good. If we have this day by word or deed made life harder for any of our brethren, or faith in goodness less easy, forgive us, Gracious Father, and in thy mercy undo the wrong we have done. [32]

JAMES MARTINEAU

O God, who hast given us light, and who grievest because we have so often loved the darkness better: thou hast called us to follow that which is good, and to flee from that which is evil; and thou knowest how, hour after hour, day after day, we have yielded to the temptations in our path, have done that which thou hadst forbidden, and have left undone the work thou hadst given us to do. O thou, whose voice of warning and love we have so little heeded, call us yet again, we beseech thee; call us that we may answer and do thy bidding, that we may go astray from thee no more; but that, being comforted by thy love, and upheld by thy strength, we may fulfil our days upon earth forgiven and at peace with thee. [42]

R. C. Jones

Most Holy and Merciful Father, we acknowledge and confess before thee; our sinful nature prone to evil and slothful in good; and all our shortcomings and offenses. Thou alone knowest how often we have sinned; in wandering from thy ways; in wasting thy gifts; in forgetting thy love. But thou, O Lord, have pity upon us; who are ashamed and sorry for all wherein we have displeased thee. Teach us to hate our errors; cleanse us from our secret faults; and forgive our sins for the sake of thy dear Son. And O most holy and loving Father; help us we beseech thee; to live in thy light and walk in thy ways; according to the commandments of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen. [3]

The Book of Common Worship

Eternal God, in whom we live and move and have our being, whose face is hidden from us by our sins, and whose mercy we forget in the blindness of our hearts; cleanse us, we beseech thee, from all our offenses, and deliver us from proud thoughts and vain desires; that with lowliness and meekness we may draw near to thee; confessing our faults, confiding in thy grace, and finding in thee our refuge and our strength, through Jesus Christ thy Son. Amen. [3]

The Book of Common Worship

FATHER OF ALL MERCIES! God of all comfort! we bring before thee the record of our lives, stained with the memories of sin and failure. Be patient with us, for if thou turn thy face from us, we are undone. Cast us not from thy presence, and take not thy Holy Spirit from us. Call us back to the right and holy path, thou Shepherd of our souls. Place upon us once more thy blessed yoke; set us face to face with our unaccomplished tasks, and we will prove our penitence by the constancy of our wills in the strength of thy forgiving grace. Give unto us what thou commandest, and then command what thou wilt. [35]

SAMUEL MCCOMB

ALMIGHTY GOD, Spirit of purity and grace, whose salvation is never far from the contrite heart, listen to our confessions of sin, and have mercy upon us. For our many refusals of thy call; for all our forgotten vows; for the better purposes which we have suffered to grow weak; for the excuses we have fashioned to hide from ourselves our unfaithful lives; for the vindictive passions we have cherished; for our readiness to blame, and our want of thoughtfulness, patience, kindness, and sympathy; for all the goodness of life which we have received thanklessly; for the strength which we have wasted; for the opportunities which we have neglected; for all the beauty of this fair world and the love of human hearts which have passed before us and which in our thoughtlessness and care and passion we have not appreciated; for our selfish comfort amid the wrongs, oppressions, and sorrows of life; for the counsels of thy Word which have spoken to us vainly; for the grace and truth of thy beloved Son which we have slighted; for the pleadings of thy Spirit to which we have not hearkened; have mercy upon us, O God. [15] *Adapted*

JOHN HUNTER

ALMIGHTY AND MOST MERCIFUL GOD, we acknowledge and confess that we have sinned against thee in thought, and word, and deed; that we have not loved thee with all our heart and soul, with all our mind and strength; and that we have not loved our neighbours as ourselves. We beseech thee, O God, to

be forgiving to what we have been, to help us to amend what we are, and of thy mercy to direct what we shall be, so that the love of goodness may ever be first in our hearts, that we may always walk in thy commandments and ordinances blameless, and follow unto our life's end in the steps of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen. [15]

JOHN HUNTER

LORD OF ALL MIGHT AND COMPASSION, who knowest our frame and rememberest how weak we are; we humbly confess the evil we have done and our weariness in well-doing, the vows we have broken, the duties we have refused, the hours that have lightly sped unmarked by any gracious deed, the tasks undone which proclaim us idle and unprofitable servants, and all our many transgressions, shortcomings, and offences. Have compassion on our unworthiness, we beseech thee; create in us a sincere desire of whatsoever things are true, just, honourable, pure, and of good report; mould us inwardly to thy will; so unite us with thyself in love and confidence that whatsoever thou bestowest we may gratefully use, whatsoever thou withholdest we may cheerfully resign, and whatsoever thou commandest we may diligently perform; and in the end be more than conquerors through him who loved us and gave himself for us. [17] *Adapted*

HUGH CAMERON

O GOD, merciful and long-suffering; we have broken thy laws, rebelled against thy providences, despised thy love, sought those treasures which moth and rust corrupt, and gloried in the hard yoke of the world and the flesh. But thou, O Almighty Father, who dost cause the soul that returns to thee grieving to be re-born in righteousness and power; pardon and restore thy repentant people, re-kindle the love that has grown cold, revive the faith that has failed, unveil the misery of a selfish life, and so persuade and enable us to embrace the gospel of thy Son that we may henceforward live in purity, lowliness, patient endurance, charity, peace, and well-doing, to inherit in the end the portion of thy saints. [17]

HUGH CAMERON

O God, gracious and long-suffering, who delightest in mercy and willest that all should return unto thee and live; pardon, we beseech thee, our many slack and empty hours, our distrust of thee, our impatience under thy rebukes, the evil we have done, the good we have left undone, and all the manifold transgressions of which our consciences are afraid, and grant us grace to live henceforward in charity, obedience and devout submission to thy will; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen. [17]

Hugh Cameron

Gracious Father, whose mercy is higher than the heavens, wider than our wanderings and deeper than all sin; receive back unto thyself thy bewildered and broken children. Forgive our folly and excess, our coldness to human sorrows, our envy of those who prosper and are at ease, our passion for the things of the moment that perish in the grasping, our indifference to those treasures of the spirit which are life and peace, our neglect of thy wise and gracious laws; and so change our hearts and turn all our desires unto thyself that we may love that which thou approvest, and do that which thou commandest, and with strength and resolution walk in uprightness and charity, to the serving of our brethren, and the glory of thy name. [17] *Adapted*

Hugh Cameron

For the sorrows which brought no softening of heart, for the chastenings which yielded no peaceable fruit of righteousness, and for the rebukes of conscience which led to no amendment of life, have mercy upon us, O God, we humbly entreat thee.

For the counsels of thy Word we have known and not loved, for the gospel of thy Son we have believed and not obeyed, and for the leading of the spirit of truth we have acknowledged and not followed, have mercy upon us, O God, we humbly entreat thee. [17]

Hugh Cameron

Have mercy upon us, O God, according to thy loving-kindness; according to the multitude of thy tender mercies blot out our transgressions. Wash us thoroughly from our iniquities,

and cleanse us from our sins. For we acknowledge our transgressions, and our sin is ever before us. Purge us and we shall be clean; wash us and we shall be whiter than snow. Create in us clean hearts, O God, and renew a right spirit within us. Cast us not away from thy presence, and take not thy Holy Spirit from us. [41] *Adapted*

PSALM 51

How often we have prayed for the coming of thy Kingdom, yet when it has sought to come through us we have sometimes barred the way; we have wanted it without in others, but not in our own hearts. We feel it is we who stand between man's need and thee; between ourselves and what we might be; and we have no trust in our own strength, or loyalty, or courage. O give us to love thy will, and seek thy Kingdom first of all. [18]

W. E. ORCHARD

MOST MERCIFUL FATHER, we have done little to forward thy Kingdom in this world, to establish the brotherhood of men, and love as the law of life. We have suffered our own fortunes to blind us, or our pains to embitter us. We have forgotten that whatsoever is done to one of the least of thy brethren is done unto thee. Pardon our shortcomings; forgive our past neglect. Give us a simple and a single heart intent on pleasing thee. Help us in all our seeking to seek first thy Kingdom and thy righteousness, that we may be blessed with the full measure of thy blessing. And make us to come, as came thy Son Jesus Christ, not to be ministered unto, but to minister. Amen. [39]

PRAYERS FOR THE CHRISTIAN YEAR

ALMIGHTY AND MOST MERCIFUL FATHER, who callest the sinner to forsake his way and to return unto thee that thou mayest have mercy upon him, we humbly acknowledge before thee our manifold sins and shortcomings. We have grievously sinned against thee in thought and word and deed. We have broken thy holy commandments and have departed from thy ways. We have not fulfilled the law of Christ that we should bear one another's burdens. We have not loved our neighbours as

ourselves; we have not done unto others as we would that they should do unto us; we have sought too much our own gain and advantage, and have closed our hearts against our fellow-men, forgetting that we are members one of another. Turn us again unto thyself, and suffer us not to fall away from thee, for with thee there is mercy, and thou dost redeem thy people from all their iniquities. Amen. [13] *Abridged*

BOOK OF COMMON ORDER

O THOU eternal believer in men, who canst make all things new, forgive us, we beseech thee, our misusings of thy good gifts—the opportunity neglected, the half-truth accepted, the superficial judgment meted out, the enjoyment of cynicism. Forgive us the unkind word, the unsympathetic heart, the false ambition, and every unworthy purpose which has ruled our lives. May the white light of thy truth, and the purifying fires of thy love cleanse us and send us forward once again upon the path where life flows deep and pure and true. [20]

ELMORE MCNEIL MCKEE

IF thou, O Lord, shouldest mark iniquity, O Lord, who would stand? Enter not into judgment with thy servants, for in thy sight is no man living justified.

In thy presence, our Father, our disguises and pretenses do not avail, and under the light of thy holiness we know ourselves for what we are, mean and petty creatures who seek our own in spite of our noble pretensions. Have mercy upon us. Give us the grace to see our faults more clearly that we may truly repent.

We confess the sorry confusion of our common life to thee. The nations are still at war with one another, each nation seeking its own advantage. Our national life is burdened with the sin of injustice. Millions live in insecurity and poverty while others spend their substance in riotous living. Those who possess authority love power more than justice and use their fellow-men as tools of their own desires. The cry of the needy arouses us only slightly from our selfish indifference.

We acknowledge that the world's sin is our own, that the

greed which we condemn when it results in obvious inhumanity is in our own heart; that the world is unjust because none of us love justice with sufficient abandon; that the vices of civilization are compounded of the lusts of all of us. Give us grace to look into our own hearts before we cast a stone of condemnation.

May we achieve the grace of true humility in thy presence so that we may cease to defeat thy will for the world by our self-will. May the vision of what we might be convict us of what we are so that thy mercy may redeem us of our sin through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen. [49]

REINHOLD NIEBUHR

O GOD, who art rich in mercy toward all those who, having missed thy ways, still come again seeking a nobler life in thee, we confess before thee: all our deep concern over our own interests, and our thoughtlessness of others; our needless anxieties and the fruitless fears with which we defeat ourselves; our timidities in the face of thy calls to duty and responsibility; our love of old errors and our distrust of the truth which would lead us in new ways; our blind confidence in false gods, and our want of faith in the sufficiency of thy spirit of love; the highways into better things which we block for others and for ourselves by our despair. Pardon us for all our sins—those we do not know, and those we dare not name, and lead us into that new life which is hid with Christ in thee. Amen. [50]

M. P. N.

O GOD, whose love we dimly apprehend until we see it in its fullness on a cross, we lift our hearts to thee, and in thy presence confess all our want of that spirit, beseeching thee to pardon us.

Forgive us for our sins against our brethren: our indifference to the needs of others; our want of understanding of the difficulties of those about us; the cynical word which has robbed others of cherished ideals; the selfishness which has refused to share with others the blessings which thou hast showered upon us.

Forgive us for our sins against ourselves; the bitterness of spirit which we have suffered to rob us of peace of mind; the aimlessness which has led us hither and yon, and squandered our energies; the blindness which has closed our eyes to the glory of life; the faithlessness which keeps us weak.

Forgive us, our Father, for our sins against thee: our contentment with ourselves and disregard of thy better ways; our refusals of thy call, and wilful disobedience to the heavenly visions given us; the timidity which holds us back from seeking thee and finding thee; our want of reverence before thee and before the sacred things of life which reveal thee to us.

Teach us to hate our sins as thou hatest them, and to love righteousness as thou lovest us; and help us henceforth to walk uprightly before thee in the power of thy spirit. Amen. [50]

M. P. N.

THE PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

THE PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

ADDRESS TO THE DEITY

O THOU who hast created all things—[14]

FATHER OF MERCY, who continuest to pour thy blessings upon us—[15]

MOST GRACIOUS FATHER, who for every new generation preparest a new and greater blessing—[17]

ALMIGHTY GOD, who art unchanging in thy purpose of bestowing benefits upon mankind, and art still blessing us when thou rebukest our pride and turnest to nought our foolish counsels—[17]

O ALMIGHTY AND EVERLASTING GOD, who hast blessed the labours of the husbandman, and given unto us the fruits of the earth in their season—[2]

O GOD, whose days are without end, and whose mercies cannot be numbered—[4]

O GOD, the God of all goodness and grace, who art worthy of a greater love than we can either give or understand—[4]

O LORD OUR GOD, Almighty and Eternal Father, who givest to thy children liberally and upbraidest not—[55]

O MOST LOVING FATHER, who willest us to give thanks for all things—[27]

O FATHER IN HEAVEN, from whose love comes down all that we love—[52]

O GOD, the Source of all good gifts—[52]

SPIRIT of the living God, Source of light and life—[52]

O THOU, whose presence is everywhere and whose mercy never faileth—[15]

ALMIGHTY GOD, the Giver of all good things, without whose help all labour is insufficient, and without whose grace all wisdom is folly—[53]

MOST GRACIOUS AND BOUNTIFUL GOD, Author of every good—[1]

O LOVING FATHER, in whose favour is life, and whose loving-kindness is better than life—[1]

MOST GRACIOUS FATHER, whose gifts to thy children are limited only by the narrowness of our desires and our unwillingness to receive—[17]

O THOU who openest thine hand, and satisfiest the desire of every living thing—[14]

PRAYERS

ALMIGHTY GOD, Father of all mercies, we thine unworthy servants do give thee most humble and hearty thanks for all thy goodness and loving-kindness to us and to all men. We bless thee for our creation, preservation, and all the blessings of this life; but above all, for thine inestimable love in the redemption of the world by our Lord Jesus Christ; for the means of grace and for the hope of glory. And, we beseech thee, give us that due sense of all thy mercies, that our hearts may be unfeignedly thankful; and that we show forth thy praise, not only with our lips, but in our lives, by giving up ourselves to thy service, and by walking before thee in holiness and righteousness all our days; through Jesus Christ our Lord, to whom, with thee and the Holy Ghost, be all honour and glory, world without end. Amen. [27]

THE BOOK OF COMMON PRAYER

O God of Love, we yield thee thanks for whatsoever thou hast given us richly to enjoy, for health and vigor, for the love and care of home, for joys of friendship, and for every good gift of happiness and strength. We praise thee for all thy servants who by their example and encouragement have helped us on our way, and for every vision of thyself which thou hast ever given us in sacrament or prayer; and we humbly beseech thee that all these thy benefits we may use in thy service and to the glory of thy holy name; through Jesus Christ, thy Son, our Lord. Amen. [54]

The Rugby Office

Heavenly Father, who art the Giver of every good and perfect gift, we thank thee for our creation in thine own image, for thy preserving mercy through all the days of our life, for the protection and comfort of our homes, for all who love us and whom we love, for healing in sickness, deliverance in danger and comfort in sorrow, for the work given us to do and the strength wherewith to do it, and for the innumerable mercies of thy mindful providence; and above all for the coming of thy beloved Son into the world, for the gracious words he spake, for the merciful work he did, for his bitter passion and atoning sacrifice on the cross, and for his mighty resurrection from the dead; for the pardon of sins, the means of grace, the indwelling of thy Spirit, and the life everlasting. [33]

John Watson

Almighty and Most Merciful Father, from whom cometh down every good and perfect gift; we yield thee praise and thanks for all thy mercies. Thy goodness hath created us; thy bounty hath sustained us; thy fatherly discipline hath chastened and corrected us; thy patience hath borne with us; thy love hath redeemed us. Give us a heart to love and serve thee, and enable us to show our thankfulness for all the goodness and mercy thou hast conferred by giving up ourselves to thy service, and cheerfully submitting in all things to thy blessed will. [13]

Book of Common Order

O God, who hast formed us for fellowship with one another, we thank thee for the friends thou hast given us: who have strengthened us when we were weak, and encouraged us when we were faint-hearted: who have taught us to scorn baseness and fear sin, and have helped us to nobler and better lives. [14]

Directory and Forms for Public Worship

O Thou who dwellest in the light invisible, and yet revealest thyself to the soul that is in darkness, Father of spirits, we praise thee for all that thou art in thyself to us unknown; and for all that thou revealest from day to day. For every creature of thine that ministers to us in any way; for our parents, teachers, and benefactors; for the examples of the past and the counsels of the present; for the way by which thou art leading us: for thy voice in our consciences, thy law in our minds, and thy love revealed in our affections; for thine infinite mercies to our fathers; and for thy promises unto their children, receive, O Lord, the humble thanksgiving of our hearts. Amen. [4]

A Book of Offices and Prayers

For the life which thou hast given and preserved, the world in which we dwell, and the hope of everlasting blessedness, we thank thee, O God;

For the pains and distresses which have moulded us as clay is moulded by the potter, and for the consolations which so often like springs in the desert have refreshed our weariness, we thank thee, O God;

For comfort and help in sorrow, in pain, in bereavement, and when flesh and heart failed, we thank thee, O God;

For the warnings of thy spirit speaking to our spirits when the sky was bright and all men spoke well of us, we thank thee, O God;

For the life and doctrine of our Lord Jesus Christ, for his love and sacrifice, for his boundless compassion, and for the glorious company of those who have followed him in weakness unto victory, we thank thee, O God;

Lord of our life and God of our salvation, who hast made the world for man and man for thyself; grant that we may so

use thy multiplied and unfailing mercies and gifts that all our days being passed in thy fear and in the service of our brethren, we may at the last be found faithful and wise stewards who meet their Lord with joy and not with fear. [17]

HUGH CAMERON

WITH our whole heart we give thee thanks, Most Gracious Father, for the world in which we now struggle, suffer, and aspire, and for that better world of final achievement for which we hope; for the mercy that is new every morning, fresh every evening, and as varied as our ever-changing needs; for the gifts of faith and hope that make perpetual sunshine within us and around; for the tenderness of thy compassions in every time of our discomfiture; for the light of knowledge, the discipline of duty, the ties and obligations of kindred, and our continued fellowship with all those who were once our friends and teachers and are now with thee; for the gospel of thy Son and the new powers and hopes that are born of it; for our memories of his earthly life and our union with him in a life that is eternal; and for the assurance that his mild and gracious spirit will finally overcome all the violence of the earth, his truth deliver all souls that are in bondage, and his kingdom abide and grow and never pass away. [17]

HUGH CAMERON

O GOD, by whose word and wisdom we are made partakers of the life eternal; not according to the multitude of thy gifts but according to what we know and comprehend we thank thee for life and its daily providences, for the fresh aids to holy living which every new experience provides, for all those thy servants, distant or near, who have lived in faith and nobleness of deed, and for the lamps which their examples have lit in lonely and desolate places; but chiefly we thank thee for the Light of the world, our Saviour Jesus Christ, for the battle he fought and victory he won, for his abiding presence in the world he loved, and for the promise that all races and kingdoms shall finally acknowledge him for Lord and Saviour; and we beseech thee so to create us anew that living as he gave

example, we may overcome lawlessness, hinder wrong, comfort sorrow, and bring the joy and peace of thy Heavenly Kingdom wherever we come. [17] *Adapted*

HUGH CAMERON

MOST GRACIOUS FATHER, who withholdest no good thing from thy children and in thy providence hast brought us to this day of rest and of the renewal of the soul; we give thee humble and hearty thanks for the world which thou hast prepared and furnished for our dwelling-place, for the steadfast righteousness which suffers no evil thing to gain the mastery, for the lives and examples of those who were strangers and pilgrims and found a better inheritance in peace of soul and joy in the Holy Spirit, and above all for the life, teaching, and sacrifice of thy Son our Saviour Jesus Christ;

For the daily round of customary duties also we thank thee, for friends and kindred, and for that larger home which we find in the society of those seen and unseen, who have loved thee and served their brethren, for the various prosperities that gladden us, and for the disappointments which remind us that here we have no abiding city;

We thank thee also for the manifold ministries of thy helpful spirit, for the joy that comes unbidden when our hearts are sad, for the various encouragements that come unsought when the way is long, for the pain that comes unwelcomed when we fall away from thee, and for the assurance of unseen aids in every time of our need;

And we beseech thee, most loving and patient Father, so to make effectual in us thy will that we may continually reach up towards the stature of a perfect humanity in Jesus Christ our Lord. [17] *Adapted*

HUGH CAMERON

WE give thee humble and grateful thanks, O Almighty Father, for thy unfailing mercies of rising and setting suns, seed-time and harvest, summer and winter, and for those daily providences which are as a father's hand and father's voice to uphold us and instruct; for household and family

joys and responsibilities; for the city in which we dwell, and the country whose memories and nobler aims exalt and sanctify the passing day; for that larger country whose laws are thy commandments and whose end is thy glory; for our part with all good men in the blessedness of delivering the world from the powers of darkness; for the yearning of our minds for a wider knowledge and of our hearts for a deeper peace than the world can give; for the light of thy Word; for the examples of those who walked in faith and were not afraid; for the rebukes and encouragements of thy divine spirit pleading inwardly with our spirits in every time of our temptation; and for the crowning mercy of our redemption through our Saviour Jesus Christ. Amen. [17]

HUGH CAMERON

WE thank thee for the good things of this life, for food and raiment and shelter; for work to do and zest in the doing of it. We thank thee for the perpetual touch of the divine in life, for the image of thyself in the soul of man; for the vigour of youth, the wisdom of age, and for all the lessons of experience; the steps by which we climb to higher things; for the courage of the brave, the indignation of the righteous, the kindness of the thoughtful, and all that makes us men and keeps us God-like. [11]

HUBERT SIMPSON

OUR FATHER, we thank thee for all the benefits we have received from thy goodness: for our creation and preservation up to this hour; for those who brought us into the world and have loved and nurtured us; for those who have befriended us and made smooth the path; for thy blessed saints and all the incalculable heritage of the past, which we remember today and into which we enter; for every opportunity of making beauty or of being good; for every victory gained over ourselves; for every day when we have stood in awe and sinned not; for every night when we have communed with our own heart upon our bed and been still. Most of all we thank thee for our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. Amen. [38]

ALBERT PARKER FITCH

O Thou who hast compassed all the pathway of our lives: we thank thee that thy providence abides through every change. Thou dost cheer the loneliest lot with the comfort of thy presence, and we bless thee for thine unfailing care. Into thine own eternity thou hast called us, and set us in the midst of purposes we cannot measure; but we would thank thee for the good we know, and pray that thou wilt teach us patience till thou send more light. Waken our hearts to gratitude, O God, for mercies which have flowed upon us, day by day, in joy and sorrow, in health and sickness, in labour and repose. Give us grace to serve thee with our whole lives, that all manner of darkness and evil may be driven from our hearts, and that we may walk with joy in the way of thy commandment to love thee with our whole heart, and our neighbour as ourselves. Amen. [36]

Services for Congregational Worship

O Thou, whose never-failing providence ordereth all things, both in heaven and on earth: we praise thee, we glorify thee, we give thanks unto thee for all thou art to us, and all thou doest for us, day by day. For reason and conscience, for nurture and guidance, and for all the gifts of nature and of grace; for thy forbearance and long-suffering, and thy tender mercies which never fail; for all good things received, and for thy promise, and our hope of good in time to come; for these and all other mercies, known or unknown, remembered or forgotten, we will give thanks unto thee now and evermore. Amen. [36]

Services for Congregational Worship

We praise and bless thy glorious name, O Lord:

For the vitality and joy of thy Spirit of Life in thy creation:

For the creation after long years of man, whom thou hast made in thine own image that thou mightest reign within his heart,

For the defeat of darkness by the Light, for truth destroying superstition, and for growing knowledge of thy ways, redeeming men from tyranny and fear,

For the onward march of thy kingdom of right and justice; for the increase of chivalry and freedom; for the growing reign of law and ordered life, putting cruelty and wrong to flight,

For the perfect manifestation of thy kingdom by the Incarnation of thy Son; and its coming into the world in power through his life and death, and resurrection,

For the presence of the kingdom in literature and art, in truth, in courage and sincerity, in loyalty, in fellowship and kindness, and

That thou hast called us, with all our dullness and limitations, to be the inheritors of the wonder and glory and joy of thy kingdom. [19] *Adapted*

THE KINGDOM, THE POWER AND THE GLORY

O LORD, who hast set before us the great hope that thy kingdom shall come on earth, and hast taught us to pray for its coming, make us ever ready to thank thee for the signs of its dawning, and to pray and work for that perfect day when thy will shall be done on earth as it is in heaven. For the work of thy Spirit within and beyond the bounds of thy visible Church;

For the work of thy Spirit in the history of the world, through peaceful advance, and through pain and tumult;

For the work of thy Spirit in the history of our own country, through its heroes and leaders, in statecraft, law, and industry;

For the work of thy Spirit in science and commerce, in literature and art;

For the work of thy Spirit in the slow triumph of truth over error;

For the work of thy Spirit in the growing desire for true brotherhood, between men of every class and nation;

For the work of thy Spirit in the spread of education, and in the development of a fuller life for individuals, with healthier surroundings and better conditions;

For the work of thy Spirit in the deepening sense of human worth in all nations and classes, and in the growing reverence for womanhood and childhood;

For the work of thy Spirit in the Church, which will not

cease until it join all nations and kindred and tongues and people into one great family, to thy praise and glory,

We thank thee, O Lord. Amen. [19] *Adapted*

THE KINGDOM, THE POWER AND THE GLORY

O LORD, who hast set mankind in families and nations, binding us by ties of race and ancestry, and enriching us with common possessions and traditions, unite us in gratitude and loyalty to thee.

We thank thee, O Lord,

For the rich gifts that thou hast offered us in times of peace, for social intercourse, industrial co-operation, and mutual help;

For the leisure which allows us to enjoy music and art and literature;

For just government, for law and order, and for all good traditions in our social and business life;

For our national institutions for the promotion of health and education, the relief of want, the restraint of evil, and the assistance of the weak;

For the increase of social sympathy among us, the growing indignation against wrong-doing and oppression, the new discontent with needless suffering and disease;

For all honest public service for the good of the community;

For the promise of the coming of thy kingdom, and the joy of working for it with our fellow-men; and

For all who have been leaders and pioneers, and for all men and women who have been faithful in the daily work of life. [52]

A BOOK OF PRAYERS FOR STUDENTS

O FATHER IN HEAVEN, who of thy great mercy hast brought us to the end of another week in safety, give us thankful hearts as we recall thy continued goodness towards us.

We thank thee, O Lord,

For all thy gifts to ourselves and to all thy children for which we have or have not prayed;

For health, recreation, and refreshment;

For interest in our work and power to do it;

For all duties and trusts committed to us;
For all progress in things for which we care;
For the companionship of fellow-workers;
For all who have helped us with spiritual guidance or correction;
For the unity of those who live in the spirit;
And for the pardon of our sins and the inspiration of thy presence. [52]

A Book of Prayers for Students

O God, who hast put a song in our hearts, we give thee thanks for every voice that praises thee, the Author of all things good: for the sunlight which brings life to the world: for everything that grows, and lifts its head towards thy light: for the stars in their courses, proclaiming a divine hand in their order: for the kindness in human hearts, that cannot be crushed: for the hopes which, though crushed, rise eternally towards better things: for the deep impulses of the soul which set towards thee. We thank thee that above all the bewilderments of life rises the song of man's unconquerable faith—his assurance that thou art the Eternal Spirit of Good; that thou hast better things in store for thy sons than they can ask or desire; and that through darkness and through light thou art the abiding Friend of all the sons of men. Put that song in our hearts this day as we gather in thy house. Give us the spirit of praise, and accept the devotion of our hearts to thee and to thy purposes. [50]

M. P. N.

Most Gracious God, who hast made us stewards of thy bounty, and trusted us with the use of thy gifts, we lift our hearts in thanksgiving for the manifold tokens of thy surrounding love. We thank thee for life, and the joy of it: for health, and all the powers with which thou hast endowed us; for the wondrous world about us; for the world within us, and every gleam of light which turns our minds towards thee; for the love of friends and kindred, and their belief in us; for the way over which we have come, and all that has been good in it; for the way that lies untrodden before us, and our chance to make it

the way of peace and righteousness; for thy companionship all the way, and our assurance that thou wilt guide our steps aright. For all that thou art to us, and all that we may be to thee, we give thanks unto thee, the Author of Goodness, and bless thy name for thy mercies which endure until all generations. [50]

M. P. N.

O God, Giver of life and of all that makes life good, we lift our hearts to thee and bless thy name for all that thou art, and for all that thou bestowest upon us. We thank thee not so much for the things which we call ours as for those things which we share with all thy children—sunshine and wind and rain and flowers and the far horizons. We give thee thanks not that thou hast made life easy, but that thou givest us strength equal to life's demands. We bless thee not so much for what we know, for that is meagre, but that under the inspiration of thy Spirit we can learn what life means and how to live. We do not thank thee for what we are, for we are shamed as we remember our wasted talents, but we thank thee for what in thy Providence we may be, for all that we may yet do to retrieve the past, and for what thou canst do with us and through us insofar as we yield our wills to thine. Accept us, Most Holy God, as we pledge ourselves to thee, our reasonable service, to live not for ourselves but for our brothers, and for thee, to count ourselves rich not in what we keep but in what we share, and to strive to live in fellowship of spirit with Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen. [50]

M. P. N.

We thank thee, Our Father, for life and love, for the mystery and majesty of existence, for the world of beauty which surrounds us and for the miracle of our conscious life by which we behold the wonders of the universe.

We thank thee for the glimpses of nobility in human life which redeem it from sordidness and reassure us that thy image is in the heart of man. We are grateful for the ties which bind us to our fellow-men; for our common toil in industry and marts of trade; for our joint inheritance as citizens of this nation; for

traditions and customs hallowed by age through which our passions are ordered and channelled; for the love of beauty and truth and goodness by which we transcend the chasms of race and nation; for the faith of our fathers by which we claim kinship with the past and gain strength for the present; for the love of dear ones in our homes and for the enlarging responsibilities and sobering duties of our family life; for the serenity of old people who redeem us of fretfulness and for the faith and courage of youth through which we are saved from sloth.

We are not worthy of the rich inheritances of our common life. We confess that we have profaned the temple of this life by our selfishness and heedlessness. We have sought to gain advantage of our brothers who are bound together with us by many different ties. Have mercy upon us that we may express our gratitude for thy many mercies by contrition for our sins and that we may prove our repentance by lives dedicated more fully to thee and to the common good, through Jesus Christ our Lord. [49]

REINHOLD NIEBUHR

FOR USE AT EVENING

O ALMIGHTY GOD AND FATHER, under whose mighty and gracious protection all our days are spent, we thank thee for all the mercies of the past day; for the continuance of our many and great blessings; for any good examples we may have seen; for any good words we may have heard or read; for all holy thoughts and right desires which thy Holy Spirit has this day put into our minds. O Lord, grant that these may not be unfruitful in us, but may work in us that for which thou didst send them; for Jesus Christ's sake. Amen. [55]

H. STOBART

OUR FATHER, we thank thee for all the friendly folk who have come into our life this day, gladdening us by their human kindness, and we send them now our parting thoughts of love through thee. We bless thee that we are set amidst this rich

brotherhood of kindred life with its mysterious power to quicken and uplift. Make us eager to pay the due price for what we get by putting forth our own life in wholesome good will and by bearing cheerily the troubles that go with all joys. Above all we thank thee for those who share our higher life, the comrades of our better self, in whose companionship we break the mystic bread of life and feel the glow of thy wonderful presence. Into thy keeping we commit our friends, and pray that we may never lose their love by losing thee. [56]

WALTER RAUSCHENBUSCH

THE PRAYER OF PETITION

THE PRAYER OF PETITION

ADDRESS TO THE DEITY

ALMIGHTY AND MERCIFUL GOD, who dost grant unto thy faithful people the grace to make every path of life temporal, the strait and narrow way which leadeth unto life eternal—[57]

O LORD, who hast breathed into us the breath of life and endued us with an immortal spirit—[58]

O LORD GOD, whose strength is sufficient for all who lay hold on it—[59]

ALMIGHTY GOD, who art the Lord of our spirits—[21]

O LORD GOD, the Life of mortals, the Light of the faithful, the Strength of those who labour—[51]

O LORD, who appointest to every man his work—[14]

ALMIGHTY GOD, who by thy spirit helpest our infirmities—[14]

O GOD, without whom nothing is strong, nothing is holy—[26]

O THOU whose grace doth ever keep, and whose love can never fail us—[15]

O THOU in whose grace there is strength to do and patience to endure—[15]

O THOU who art the Lord of all our days—[15]

O God, the Strength of the weak, the Friend of sinners, and the Comfort of the sorrowful—[41]

Almighty God, who has called us to be thy sons and daughters—[17]

Almighty and Most Gracious Father, the giver and perfecter of every good purpose—[17]

Almighty God, through obedience to whom every adverse experience turns to strength and patience—[17]

O God, the Judge of all, who knowest what is in man, and requirest truth in the inward parts—[13]

O God, whom to know is to be truly wise—[21]

Almighty and Most Gracious Father, who hast called us unto a service which grows hard only when we fail in wisdom and loyalty—[17]

O God, infinite and eternal, whose will towards us for our good is ever greater than our prayers—[17]

Almighty God, whose wisdom is high and wide as the heavens and ever brings to shame the prudence of worldly men—[17]

Almighty God, who in a world of change hast placed eternity in our hearts and hast given us power to discern good from evil—[17]

O God, who alone dost sustain thy servants in weariness, and alone canst reconcile the sad and disappointed to thy will—[17]

Almighty God, who besettest us behind and before, and for our perfecting didst send thy Son to be in his gospel a light on our path—[17]

O Most Loving Father, who willest us to give thanks for all things, to dread nothing but the loss of thee, and to cast all our care on thee, who carest for us—[27]

O Thou great Companion of our future as of our past—[20]

O God, who art as a strong tower of defense to all that put their trust in thee—[20]

O God, in whose hand are the destinies of men, yet who dost not leave us without the responsibilities of choice—[20]

O God, who knowest the duties that lie ahead of us, the dangers that confront us, and the weaknesses that most easily beset us—[20]

O God, eternal rock of thy people in all time of their prosperity, refuge of thy people in every hour of need—[20]

O God, who art the Light of all those that put their steady trust in thee—[20]

O God, who, by the example of thy dear Son hast warned us that we should work thy works while it is day, before the night cometh when no man can work—[3]

O God of Love, who hast given a nem commandment through thine only begotten Son, that we should love one another—[60]

O God, the Redeemer of our souls, and the Comforter of them that mourn, whose will is our peace, and to whom obedience is true freedom—[61]

Almighty God, who canst give the light that in darkness shall make us glad, the life that in gloom shall make us joy, and the peace that amidst discord shall bring us quietness—[21]

O THOU whose name is Love, who never turnest away from the cry of thy needy children—[62]

O GOD ALMIGHTY, who to them that have no might increasest strength—[59]

O GOD, with whom is the well of life, and in whose light we see light—[51]

ALMIGHTY GOD, our heavenly Father, without whose help labour is useless, without whose light search is vain—[63]

ALMIGHTY GOD, our Light in darkness, our Strength in weakness, our Hope in sinfulness, and our Eternal Home—[21]

ALMIGHTY GOD, who alone gavest us the breath of life, and alone canst keep alive in us the breathing of holy desires—[61]

O GOD, who art thyself the exceeding great reward of all faithful souls—[57]

PRAYERS

FOR THE DESIRE TO SEEK GOD

GRACIOUS FATHER, within whose light and under the sway of whose peace we come with every turning away from personal desires and ambitions; keep alive in us, we beseech thee, the longing of the child for its father, of the sinner for his Saviour, of the storm-tossed voyager for the lights and safety of the harbour. Grant that neither in the stress of business nor in meditative hours we may ever be far away from thee. [17]

HUGH CAMERON

FOR THE VISION OF GOD

O Lord God, in whom we live, and move, and have our being, open our eyes that we may behold thy Fatherly presence ever about us. Draw our hearts to thee with the power of thy love. Teach us to be careful (anxious) for nothing; and when we have done what thou hast given us to do, help us, O God, our Saviour, to leave the issue to thy wisdom. Take from us all doubt and mistrust. Lift our thoughts up to thee in heaven; and make us to know that all things are possible to us through thy Son, our Redeemer. Amen. [30]

Bishop Brooke Foss Westcott

FOR KNOWLEDGE OF GOD

O God, in whom we have our being, who in thy light hast revealed thyself unto us, but whom in our darkness we cannot comprehend, grant that we may think worthily of thee, as we ought to think, and may renew thine image in us according to the pattern of thy Son, the Man Christ Jesus, and by the grace of thy Holy Spirit. Amen. [64]

William Angus Knight

FOR CONFIDENCE IN GOD

Almighty God, in whose light alone we know ourselves, without whose guidance we are distressed, in the obedience of whose larger will there is perfect freedom; grant us so sure a confidence in thy unfailing sympathy that we may freely and joyously go to thee whensoever we are perplexed or in trouble, to be raised by thee into that serener faith in which all sorrows are healed and all sins forgiven, into that diviner love which renders sacrifice a joy, and into that abiding peace which the world can neither give nor take away; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen. [17]

Hugh Cameron

FOR LOVE TO GOD

O God, the God of all goodness and of all grace, who art worthy of a greater love than we can either give or understand; fill our hearts, we beseech thee, with such love towards thee that nothing may seem too hard for us to do or to suffer in obedience to thy will; and grant that thus loving thee, we may become daily more like unto thee, and finally obtain the crown of life which thou has promised to those that love thee; through Jesus Christ our Lord. [65]

Farnham Hostel Manual of Prayer

FOR THE PRESENCE OF GOD

O Thou whose infinite majesty looketh on us from the heavens and the earth, but whose grace and truth shine in the face of Jesus Christ, more and more soften thy great glory to us through the pure and tender light of his spirit; and enable us to trust thee with his trust, to love thee with his love, and to be baptized for life with the baptism that he was baptized with. As thou didst dwell in him and bring thy consecration to our humanity, vouchsafe, O Lord, to abide with us, and stay with us till eventide; that we may do all our works as in thy sight, and sweeten our temper by thy constant spirit, and quiet our sorrows with thine inward peace. In the turmoil of the world and the failure of lower hopes, may we remember our real life which is hid with thee; and where our treasure is, there may our heart be also. Keep us by thy mercy in fitness for our change; healing our sins, helping our weakness, sustaining our mortal nature, till we are called to thy higher service. [32]

James Martineau

FOR SURRENDER TO GOD

O take us out of our own power, by winning our hearts for what thou lovest best, and drawing them into the like-

ness of thy faithful servants, who have given themselves up to do and to hear all thy perfect will. Redeemed from care by the spirit of sacrifice, may we expect nothing for ourselves, and find our rest in the surrender of all to thee. Our daily work, in solitude or with each other, may we dedicate to thee, who alone art the beginning and the end of whatever is pure and true and holy. And amid the confused voices of the world's sins and sadnesses, may we inwardly hear the whispers of righteousness and hope, and keep clear the vision of thy kingdom. So deepen every better faith within us, that we may be ready to pour some baptism of healing on the doubt and shame and sorrows of other hearts; and may we neither faint nor fail under any grievous cross which thou mayest lay on us. Keep us thine, O Father, in life, in death, and evermore. Amen. [32]

JAMES MARTINEAU

FOR CONSECRATION

O LORD, our Heavenly Father, we offer and present unto thee ourselves, our souls and bodies, to be a reasonable, holy, and living sacrifice unto thee. Take us as we are, and make us more fit for thy service. Use us for thyself and for the edification of thy church. We are not our own, but thine, bought with a price; therefore claim us as thy right, keep us as thy charge, use us as thou wilt, and when thou wilt, to the glory of thy holy Name and the good of our fellow-men; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen. [39]

PRAYERS FOR THE CHRISTIAN YEAR

FOR PARTNERSHIP WITH GOD

O GOD, who art ever working in men's hearts by the operation of thy Spirit, to make us fellow-workers with thy will, save us, and help us, we humbly beseech thee, O Lord:

From all unwillingness to learn thy will, from clinging to our own plans and desires, from all want of faith in self-committal to thy guidance;

From cowardice in following thy leading, from ever suffering our own ambitions to cloud the vision of thy will for us, from trying to serve thee and escape the cost;

From shirking the responsibility of our place in the divine order, from fearing new truth and new ways of thought and life;

From seeking to set forward human progress, whether in the church or in the world, by doing our own will instead of loyally asking to know thine. [19]

THE KINGDOM, THE POWER AND THE GLORY

FOR FELLOWSHIP WITH GOD

O GOD, our Ever-living Refuge, with grateful hearts we lay at thy feet the folded hours when thou knowest us, but we know not thee; and with joy receive from thy hand once more our open task and conscious communion with thy life and thought. Day by day liken us more to the spirits of the departed wise and good; and fit us in our generation to carry on their work below, till we are ready for more perfect union with them above. And if ever we faint under any appointed cross and say, "It is too hard to bear," may we look to the steps of the Man of Sorrows toiling on to Calvary, and pass freely into thy hand, and become one with him and thee. Dedicate us to the joyful service of thy will; and own us as thy children in time and in eternity. Amen. [32] *Adapted*

JAMES MARTINEAU

FOR LIFE IN GOD

O THOU ETERNAL, in whose appointment our life standeth, thou hast committed our work to us, and we would commit our cares to thee. May we feel that we are not our own, and that thou wilt heed our wants, while we are intent upon thy will. More and more fill us with that pity for other's troubles, which comes from forgetfulness of our own; with the charity

of them that know their own unworthiness; and the glad hope of the children of eternity. And unto thee, the Beginning and the End, Lord of the living, Refuge of the dying, be thanks and praise for ever. Amen. [32]

JAMES MARTINEAU

FOR REFUGE FROM THE STORM

ALMIGHTY GOD, Lord of the storm and of the calm, the vexed sea and the quiet haven, of day and night, of life and of death; grant unto us so to have our hearts stayed upon thy faithfulness, thine unchangingness and love, that, whatsoever betide us, however black the cloud or dark the night, with quiet faith trusting in thee, we may look upon thee with untroubled eye, and walking in lowliness towards thee, and in lovingness towards one another, abide all storms and troubles of this mortal life, beseeching thee that they may turn to the soul's true good; we ask it for thy mercy's sake, shown in Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen. [21]

GEORGE DAWSON

FOR THE PEACE OF GOD

GRANT unto us, Almighty God, the peace of God that passeth understanding, that we, amid the storms and troubles of this our life, may rest in thee, knowing that all things are in thee; not beneath thine eye only, but under thy care, governed by thy will, guarded by thy love, so that with a quiet heart we may see the storms of life, the cloud and the thick darkness, ever rejoicing to know that the darkness and the light are both alike to thee. Guide, guard, and govern us even to the end; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen. [21]

GEORGE DAWSON

FOR THE JOY OF THE LORD

CONTINUE to us, we beseech thee, thy lovingkindness, that we may rejoice and be glad in thee all our days. Supply all our need according to thy glorious riches; and make all grace

to be multiplied towards us, that we always, having sufficiency in all things, may abound unto every good work. Teach us also to be careful for nothing, but in everything, by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving, to make our requests known unto thee; that the peace of God, which passeth all understanding, may keep our hearts and minds through Jesus Christ our Lord, to whom with thee, the Father, and the Holy Ghost, be glory everlasting. Amen. [13]

BOOK OF COMMON ORDER

FOR CHRISTLIKENESS

GIVER of all good, whose desire it is that all should come to a knowledge of the truth; help us to love that which is good; to hate evil; to be fair in play, earnest in work, and faithful even in that which is least. Make us kindly in thought, gentle in word, generous in deed. Teach us that it is better to give than to receive, better to minister than to be ministered unto; for it is in giving that we receive; it is in losing that we find, it is in dying to self that we rise to the life eternal; according to the way and example of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen. [16]

SERVICE BOOK AND ORDINAL OF THE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF SOUTH AFRICA

FOR KNOWLEDGE OF CHRIST

GIVE us so to know Christ and his life, that the same mind which was in him may be in us; that we may be in the world as he was in the world.

Give us so to know Christ and his death, that we may not glory save in his Cross; whereby the world is crucified unto us, and we unto the world.

Give us so to know Christ and the power of his resurrection, that like as he was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, we also may walk in newness of life. [13]

BOOK OF COMMON ORDER

FOR THE BLESSEDNESS OF CHRIST

GIVE ear, O Lord, unto our prayer, and attend to the voice of our supplication.

Make us poor in spirit: that ours may be the kingdom of heaven.

Make us to mourn for sin: that we may be comforted by thy grace.

Make us meek: that we may inherit the earth.

Make us to hunger and thirst after righteousness: that we may be filled therewith.

Make us merciful: that we may obtain mercy.

Make us pure in heart: that we may see thee.

Make us peacemakers: that we may be called thy children.

Make us willing to be persecuted for righteousness' sake: that our reward may be great in heaven. Amen. [13]

BOOK OF COMMON ORDER

FOR LOYALTY TO CHRIST

O LORD JESUS CHRIST, who art the Way, the Truth, and the Life, we pray thee suffer us not to stray from thee, who art the Way, nor to distrust thee, who art the Truth, nor to rest in any other thing than thee, who art the Life. Teach us by thy Holy Spirit what to believe, what to do, and wherein to take our rest. For thine own name's sake we ask it. Amen. [10]

DESIDERIUS ERASMUS

FOR TRUE DISCIPLESHIP

O JESUS CHRIST, the Lord of all good life, who hast called us to build the city of God: do thou enrich and purify our lives and deepen in us our discipleship. Help us daily to know more of thee, and through us, by the power of thy Spirit, show forth thyself to other men. Make us humble, brave, and loving: make us ready for adventure. We do not ask that thou wilt

keep us safe, but that thou will keep us loyal, who for us didst face death unafraid, and dost live and reign for ever and ever. From lack of reverence for Truth and Beauty; from prejudice and sentimentalism; from being contented with the mean and ugly; from the cowardice that dare not face new truth, the laziness contented with half-truths, and the arrogance that thinks it knows all truths; from the blasphemy of cynicism about our brethren made in the image of God; from all false pride, intolerance, and contempt; from everything in our lives and methods which may hide the true light of thee, who art the Light of the world; from the disloyalty of being satisfied with things as they are, in the church and in the world; and from failing to share thy indignation, O Christ, deliver us. Amen. [19] *Adapted*

THE KINGDOM, THE POWER AND THE GLORY

FOR THE CHRISTLIKE SPIRIT

SPIRIT of spirits! Light of lights! who livest in all great and holy souls, and shinest for us in the face of Jesus Christ, humble us with his lowly surrender unto thee, and incline us, with the simplicity of disciples sitting at his feet, to that good part which shall not be taken from us. May we decline no duty which thou sendest; fear no trial which thou appointest; grow cold in no affection which thou approvest. Fill us with forbearance to the weak, lest we also be tempted; with pity for the suffering, seeing that we too dwell in houses of clay; with courage against temptation, since thou art on our side; with a spirit of praise and love amid our joys, and with a blessed hope, befitting those whose life is hid with Christ in God. Amen. [32]

JAMES MARTINEAU

FOR UNITY

O GOD THE FATHER, good beyond all that is good, fair beyond all that is fair, in whom is calmness, peace, and concord; do thou make up the dissensions which divide us from each

other, and bring us back into a unity of love, which may bear some likeness to thy divine nature. And as thou art above all things, make us one by the unanimity of a good mind, that through the embrace of charity and the bonds of affection, we may be spiritually one, as well in ourselves as in each other; through that peace of thine which maketh all things peaceful, and through the grace, mercy, and tenderness of thy Son, Jesus Christ. Amen. [8]

St. Dionysius

FOR WISDOM

Merciful Father, who willest not thy children to wander in darkness; pour the light of thy spirit into our minds and hearts, that we may discover what is thy holy will and discern the true from the false, the evil from the good, and that we may henceforth walk in the paths of wisdom, to the glory of thy holy name; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen. [3]

The Book of Common Worship

FOR SURE JUDGMENT

Almighty God, who hast placed us in a world of things true and false, noble and base; grant us clearness of vision and sure judgment wherever good is intertwined with evil and duty conflicts with desire, and at all hours a settled purpose of seeking thy will and the things that endure, and of living in the joy of thy glorious and eternal kingdom. [17]

Hugh Cameron

FOR PERPETUAL LIGHT

Almighty God, in whom is no darkness at all, grant us thy light perpetually, and when we cannot see the way before us, may we continue to put our trust in thee, that so being guided and guarded, we may be kept from falling this day, and finally, by thy mercy, enter into our rest; through Jesus Christ our Lord. [64]

William Angus Knight

FOR TRUTH AND RIGHTEOUSNESS

O THOU who art the Life of all that lives, the Strength of the weak, and the Hope of those that be cast down, inform our minds with thy truth, we beseech thee, and our hearts with righteousness; strengthen our wills to choose the good and to refuse the evil; help us to bear each other's burdens, to forgive one another's faults, and to forbear with every defect of judgment and of temper in those with whom we live and who daily help us. Grant this through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen. [64]

WILLIAM ANGUS KNIGHT

FOR FAITH

LORD of our life and Disposer of our lot! Thou hast set us in a world glorious with blessed hopes, but sad with many sins and sorrows. Inspire us with the divine faith, subdue us to the lowly patience, of those who have lived as fellow-workers with thee; and whether thou call us to rejoice in spirit, or to be sorrowful even unto death, may we still abide in thee. Day by day may we grow in faith, in self-denial, in charity, in heavenly-mindedness; in the purity by which we may see thee; and the surrender which makes us one with thee. And then, mingle us at last with the mighty host of thy redeemed for evermore. [32] *Adapted*

JAMES MARTINEAU

FOR GUIDANCE

O GOD, by whom the meek are guided in judgment, and light riseth up in darkness for the godly; grant us, in all our doubts and uncertainties, the grace to ask what thou wouldst have us to do; that the Spirit of Wisdom may save us from all false choices, and that in thy light we may see light, and in thy straight path may not stumble, through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen. [28]

WILLIAM BRIGHT

FOR INSIGHT

TOUCH our eyes, O Lord, with clearness, and place the world before them truly; that we may see through its illusions to its sorrows and sins, and never trust ourselves to it without the shield of faith and the sword of the Spirit, and the unwearied courage of hope and love. Prepare us to seek our rest, not in outward ease, but in inward devotedness; only fulfill unto us the word of the Chief of saints; leave us his peace, while we remain here; and then receive us unto thyself, to mingle with the mighty company of our forerunners. [32]

JAMES MARTINEAU

FOR LIGHT

ETERNAL GOD, for whom no dawn arises, and no evening sets, we look for thee to lift up thy countenance upon us and show us light. O thou that bringest deliverance to the captives and songs in the night! scatter our faithless cares to the winds. Humble our self-will beneath the cross. Speak to our conscience with no veil between, till we are wholly at one with thee. Clear, O Lord, our inward vision, that we may see through the false shows of life, and be kept quiet and true by thy great realities. Reveal to the young, thou Supreme Inspirer, what it is to live this great life of opportunity; and fill them with the pure and undefiled religion which will keep them unspotted from the world. And in the hearts of the elders, let not the fires die or their work linger, till they are overtaken by the fading light and lengthening shadows of their set time. Knowing nothing of the morrow, may we rejoice to be faithful today; gladly accepting the humblest task that waits for us by thy will, and shines with the holy light of thine approval. [32] *Adapted*

JAMES MARTINEAU

FOR HONEST MINDS

In times of doubts and questionings, when our belief is perplexed by new learning, new teaching, new thought, when our faith is strained by creeds, by doctrines, by mysteries beyond our understanding, give us the faithfulness of learners and the courage of believers in thee; give us boldness to examine, and faith to trust all truth; patience and insight to master difficulties; stability to hold fast our traditions with enlightened interpretations, to admit all fresh truth made known to us, and in times of trouble to grasp new knowledge and to combine it loyally and honestly with the old. Save us and help us, we humbly beseech thee, O Lord. Amen. [66]

Bishop George Ridding

FOR UNDERSTANDING

O God, who hast set the solitary in families, who dost join man to man in friendship, and who dost enkindle the hearts of nations to draw near to one another, grant us thy gift of understanding. Make us sensitive to all troubled, lonely, disappointed persons. Make us sympathetic with all who are bereaved, frustrated, and ill. Make us eager to bear the burdens of the unemployed, the poor, and the homeless, people of all races and classes. Teach us to bless those who curse us, to pray for those who spitefully use us, and to forgive those who speak ill of us, or reject and pass us proudly by. Take our spirits to those deep well-springs of life eternal where Jesus met thee face to face. Leave us ill satisfied till thy love flows through us, and no barrier of our own mars the fulfillment of thine eternal purpose in us. Amen. [20]

Elmore McNeil McKee

FOR OBEDIENCE

O God, who hast commanded us to be perfect, as thou our Father in heaven art perfect; put into our hearts, we pray thee, a continual desire to obey thy holy will. Teach us day by day,

what thou wouldst have us do, and give us grace and power to fulfill the same. May we never from love of ease decline the path which thou pointest out, nor, for fear of shame, turn away from it; for the sake of Christ Jesus our Lord. Amen. [67]

HENRY ALFORD

FOR RIGHTEOUSNESS

O GOD, who puttest into our hearts such deep desires that we cannot be at peace until we rest in thee: mercifully grant that the longing of our souls may not go unsatisfied because of any unrighteousness of life that may separate us from thee. Open our minds to the counsels of eternal wisdom; breathe into our souls the peace which passeth understanding. Let our hunger and thirst be for righteousness, that we may be filled with the bread of heaven. O Lord, give us grace to seek first thy kingdom; and we know that thou wilt add unto us all things needful. Amen. [36]

SERVICES FOR CONGREGATIONAL WORSHIP

FOR COURAGE

MAKE us ready for the great adventure of living. We do not pray for immunity from risks; we pray for courage to face risks. We do not ask to be saved out of the world; we ask for strength to ally ourselves with the saviours of the world. Among the immediate and incidental problems of personal life, give us courage to face the facts which confront us without evasions or self-deception; to atone for our blunders, not by repentance only, but by braver determination and decision. Among the perplexities of daily life give us equanimity and self-control, that we be not the slaves of circumstances but their masters, with the exhilaration of conflict and the joy of victory.

Finally, we pray that the adventure of living may be guarded and sustained by an undefeated patience, willing to wait for

new light and to re-enforce duty by loyalty. We do not know what a day may bring forth. Arm us for the campaign of life with an unperturbed faith and an unconquered hope, that when the end of our adventure arrives, and we face the mystery that lies beyond, we may have the same tranquil courage to meet the things which eye hath not seen, nor ear heard, nor have entered into the heart of man, but which thou hast prepared for them that love thee. [40]

FRANCIS G. PEABODY

FOR RIGHT WILL

O GOD, our great Companion, give to us or take from us whatever else it please thee to give or take away, but give to us now and forever a will like thine own that wearies not and wastes not, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen. [68]

HENRY SYLVESTER NASH

FOR STEADFASTNESS

O GOD, speak to our hearts when men faint for fear, and the love of many grows cold, and there is distress of the nations upon earth. Keep us resolute and steadfast in the things that cannot be shaken, abounding in hope and knowing that our labour is not in vain in thee. Restore our faith in the omnipotence of good; renew the love which never faileth; and make us to lift up our eyes and behold, beyond the things which are seen and temporal, the things which are unseen and eternal. Amen. [5]

BOOK OF COMMON WORSHIP

FOR PERSEVERANCE

O THOU whose glory filleth all things! Whose greatness we can never find, but whose presence we would always seek! Whose excellency is more than we can know, yet all that we adore! From the confused voices of our life we turn to thy

silent presence: from our dark and bounded sky we issue forth into thy pure and infinite light. O, come, thou Holy Spirit, we beseech thee! Take from us the tediousness and anxiety of a selfish mind, the unfruitfulness of cold affections, the weakness of an inconstant will. With the simplicity of a great purpose, the quiet of a meek temper, and the power of a well-ordered soul, may we pass through the toils and watches of our pilgrimage; grateful for all that may render the burden of duty light; and even in strong trouble rejoicing to be deemed worthy of the severer service of thy will. [32]

JAMES MARTINEAU

FOR DILIGENCE

GIVE us grace, O Lord, to work while it is day, fulfilling diligently and patiently whatever duty thou appointest us; doing small things in the day of small things, and great labours if thou summonest us to any; rising and working, sitting still and suffering according to thy word. [59]

CHRISTINA G. ROSSETTI

FOR FAITHFUL SERVICE

SAVE us from feeling after thee in vain through the darkness of a selfish and unchastened mind. By thy grace shame away all prejudice and scorn, melt down our pride, quiet our fears, sweeten our affections, and lift us above the fretfulness of the world into thy divine repose. And, O Arm of the Lord, awake our slumbering and heedless wills, that we may take all our yoke, and give ourselves up to thee, not by inward vision only, but by faithful service. As thou, O Father, workest everlastingly, and not one of thy blessings ever faileth, may we never grow weary of well-doing; but still follow the steps of thy beloved Son today and tomorrow, till the sacrifice of ourselves be perfected. [32]

JAMES MARTINEAU

FOR A SENSE OF OBLIGATION

O LORD, our Saviour, who hast warned us that thou wilt require much of those to whom much is given; grant that we whose lot is cast in so goodly a heritage may strive together the more abundantly to extend to others what we so richly enjoy; and as we have entered into the labours of other men, so to labour that in their turn other men may enter into ours, to the fulfillment of thy holy will; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen. [6]

ST. AUGUSTINE

FOR THE SPIRIT OF STEWARDSHIP

LORD OF ALL BEING, Maker and Master of the world and all that dwelt therein, we thank thee that in thy treasure house there is ample store for the need of every child of thine. Forgive us when in our desire to possess and to enjoy, we seek for our own more than our well-earned share of this world's goods. Teach us that no man liveth to himself. May we hold all that we have as a trust to be used for the furtherance of thy kingdom in Jesus Christ. Amen. [3]

THE BOOK OF COMMON WORSHIP

FOR TRUE LIBERTY

O THOU who hast taught us that we are most truly free when we lose our wills in thine, help us to attain to this liberty by continual surrender unto thee; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen. [7]

GELASIAN SACRAMENTARY

FOR HUMILITY

TAKE from us, O God, all pride and vanity, all boasting and forwardness, and give us the true courage that shows itself by gentleness; the true wisdom that shows itself by simplicity; and the true power that shows itself by modesty; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen. [69]

CHARLES KINGSLEY

FOR GRACE TO MAKE AMENDS

GRANT us this boon, that for every harm we have done, we may do some brave act of salvation, and that for every soul that has stumbled or fallen through us, we may bring to thee some other weak or despairing one, whose strength has been renewed by our love, that so the face of thy Christ may smile upon us and the light within us may shine undimmed. [56]

WALTER RAUSCHENBUSCH

FOR CHARITY

O THOU who art the one God and Father of all, who hast breathed thine own Spirit into thy children, and made us to be at one with each other as members of thy household; enable us, we beseech thee, to keep the unity of the spirit in the bond of peace. While there are diversities of knowledge and of faith, may we be one in spirit, in brotherly affection, and in devotion to thy holy will. Deliver us, we pray thee, from all blindness and prejudice, and whatever else would turn our hearts from one another. By the charity of our temper and thoughts, may we show forth the power of the gospel of love, and may we live in peace and unity with all our brethren, as followers of the Prince of Peace.

O God, who hast included all thy commandments in the one commandment of love, so that if we love not our neighbour we cannot fulfill thy law; we humbly pray thee, create in our hearts such a sincere love of one another, that we may be children of our Father in heaven, and true disciples of Jesus Christ. Amen. [42]

R. C. JONES

FOR WATCHFULNESS

WE know not what a day may bring forth; fill us with steadfast diligence to turn each moment to account; with vigi-

lance against every temptation to indolent, careless, or disordered ways; with unswerving love of whatever things are pure and true; and then may we be without care, as those whose refuge is in thee. Thus make us true followers of him whose meat it was to do thy will and finish thy work. [32]

JAMES MARTINEAU

FOR REVERENCE

GIVE to each one of us, O Lord, a reverence for the truth, a desire both to think and to speak truly, and save us from ever being afraid of the truth, for it is part of the revelation of thyself, and part of thy perfect righteousness.

Give to us all the appreciation of loveliness and beauty, and teach us a great reverence for it, as being also part of thy revealing, and of righteousness as it is in thee.

Increase in us, O Lord, the desire to see justice established among men and to hasten that day when love shall rule in our social and industrial life, and none shall enrich himself at others' expense, or live indifferent to others' needs and claims. [19]

THE KINGDOM, THE POWER AND THE GLORY

FOR GLADNESS

O GOD, Inspirer of the world's joy, Bearer of the world's pain, make us glad that we are men and that we have inherited the world's burdens. Deliver us from the luxury of cheap melancholy and at the heart of all our trouble and sorrow, let unconquerable gladness dwell; through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen. [4]

A BOOK OF OFFICES AND PRAYERS

FOR HEALTH

MOST COMPASSIONATE GOD, who bearest upon thy heart the suffering of thy children, and longest that we should permit

thee to give us healing and peace, we thank thee for thy Son who ministered to weaknesses of body as well as to corruption of soul, through whom thou gavest to stricken men and women health of body, mind, and spirit. Grant us his utter faith in thee, that in the face of life's trials and perplexities we may share his trustful, confident mind, and be freed from the cares which destroy us. Grant us his devotion to thy Kingdom, that we may be lifted out of ourselves, and find our strength renewed as we use to the utmost the powers thou hast given us. Grant us his unfaltering belief in thy goodness, that whether pain or joy be our lot, we may still know ourselves to be upheld by thine encompassing strength, and in that knowledge find rest. Most of all we pray for his spirit of service, that what thou givest us of health and strength may be returned to thee in work well done for thy children's sake, and all our powers and gifts be dedicated to thee, their Author, even as we have seen life poured out for us through the cross of Jesus Christ. Amen. [50]

M. P. N.

FOR FRUITFUL PAIN

We ask thee not, O Lord, to rid us of pain; but grant in thy mercy that our pain may be free from waste, unfretted by rebellion against thy will, unsoiled by thought of ourselves, purified by love of our kind, and ennobled by devotion to thy Kingdom; through the merits of thine only Son our Lord. Amen. [68]

Henry Sylvester Nash

FOR THE HEAVENLY MIND

O God, who alone canst uphold the minds of men, without whose beauty and goodness our souls are unfed, without whose truthfulness our reasons wither; consecrate our lives to thy will, giving us such purity of heart, such depth of faith, such

steadfastness of purpose, that, in thy good time, we may come to think thine own thoughts after thee; through Jesus Christ our Saviour. Amen. [68]

HENRY SYLVESTER NASH

FOR FREEDOM FROM FEAR

O MOST LOVING FATHER, who willest us to give thanks for all things, to dread nothing but the loss of thee, and to cast all our care on thee, who carest for us, preserve us from faithless fears and worldly anxieties, and grant that no clouds of this mortal life may hide us from the light of that love which is immortal, and which thou hast manifested unto us in thy Son Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen. [28]

WILLIAM BRIGHT

FOR FREEDOM FROM CARE

O LORD, whose way is perfect, help us, we pray thee, always to trust in thy goodness; that, walking with thee and following thee in all simplicity, we may possess quiet and contented minds, and may cast all our care upon thee, for thou carest for us; for the sake of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen. [59]

CHRISTINA G. ROSSETTI

FOR QUIETNESS

MOST POTENT KING OF KINGS AND LORD OF LORDS, whose glory is incomprehensible, whose majesty is infinite, and whose power is incomparable: maintain thy servants in quietness, and grant that we may be so settled on the certainty of thy promises that whatsoever thing come upon us, we may abide firm in thy faith, and may live uprightly and without reproach in the midst of thy church, which Jesus Christ thy Son hath bought with his precious blood. Amen. [131]

SCOTTISH COLLECTS OF 1595

FOR PEACE AT EVENING

O God, who art Peace everlasting; send thy peace into our hearts at the evening hour, that we may be contented with thy mercies of this day, and confident of thy protection for this night; and now, having forgiven others, even as thou dost forgive us, may we have a pure comfort and a healthful rest within the shelter of our homes; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen. [16]

Service Book and Ordinal of the Presbyterian Church of South Africa

FOR REST AT EVENING

O God, who hast drawn over weary day the restful veil of night, wrap our consciences in heavenly peace. Lift from our hands our tasks, and all through the night bear in thy bosom the full weight of our burdens and sorrows, that in untroubled slumber we may press our weakness close to thy strength, and win new power for the morrow's duty from thee who givest thy beloved sleep. Amen. [34]

Bishop Charles H. Brent

FOR REPOSE

We beseech thee, Lord, to behold us with favour (folk of many families and nations), gathered together in the peace of this roof; weak men and women, subsisting under the covert of thy patience.

Be patient still; suffer us yet a while longer—with our broken purposes of good, with our idle endeavours against evil—suffer us a while longer to endure, and (if it may be) help us to do better. Bless to us our extraordinary mercies; if the day come when these must be taken, help us play the man under affliction. Be with our friends, be with ourselves. Go with each of us to rest; if any awake, temper to them the dark hours of watching; and when the day returns, return to us, our Sun and Com-

forter, and call us up with morning faces and with morning hearts, eager to labour, eager to be happy, if happiness shall be our portion, and if the day be marked for sorrow, strong to endure it.

We thank thee and praise thee; and in the words of him to whom this day is sacred, close our oblation. [70]

ROBERT LOUIS STEVENSON

FOR SYMPATHY WITH OTHER NATIONS

GRANT, O Lord,

That we may approach every question of foreign policy from the point of sight of our creed;

That we may check in ourselves and in others every temper which makes for war, all ungenerous judgments, all presumptuous claims, all promptings of self-assertion, the growths of ignorance and passion;

That we may endeavour to understand the needs, the feelings, the endowments, the traditional aspirations of other countries;

That we may do gladly, unweariedly, patiently, what lies in us to remove suspicions and misunderstandings;

That we may honour all men. Amen. [30]

BISHOP BROOKE FOSS WESTCOTT

FOR YOUTH

O GOD, the King of Men, the Lord of Youth, without whom we can do nothing but with whom we can do anything, help us by thy grace, to clean-minded and true-hearted living, so that when school is over and our work begun, and we join in the fight for all high and holy things, we may continue steadfastly in the same till our life's end. Save us from our easily besetting sins: slothfulness of mind, neglect of soul, indifference to the rights and needs of others. In the hour of bodily desire, when the inner light grows dim and darkness steals across the

mind, make us to remember those we love and to fix our wills on purity and honour and truth. Help us to fight the good fight and grant us the light and peace of moral victory for our reward. May we rejoice in each day's work and play, revering ourselves, our fellowmen, and thee. So may we come to the evening at last, undismayed and undishonoured; through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen. [38]

ALBERT PARKER FITCH

FOR OLD AGE

O GOD, our Heavenly Father, whose gift is length of days, help us to make the noblest use of mind and body in our advancing years. According to our strength apportion thou our work. As thou hast pardoned our transgressions, sift the ingatherings of our memory that evil may grow dim and good may shine forth clearly. We bless thee for thy gifts and especially for thy presence and the love of friends in heaven and earth. Grant us new ties of friendship, new opportunities of service, joy in the growth and happiness of children, sympathy with those who bear the burdens of the world, clear thought and quiet faith. Teach us to bear infirmities with cheerful patience. Keep us from narrow pride in outgrown ways, blind eyes that will not see the good of change, impatient judgments of the methods and experiments of others. Let thy peace rule our spirits through all the trial of our waning powers. Take from us all fear of death, and all despair or undue love of life; that with glad hearts at rest in thee we may await thy will concerning us, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen. [4]

AUTHOR UNKNOWN

FOR RIGHT USE OF FLEETING DAYS

ETERNAL GOD, who committest to us the swift and solemn trust of life; since we know not what a day may bring forth, but only that the hour for serving thee is always present, may

we wake to the instant claims of thy holy will; not waiting for tomorrow, but yielding today. Lay to rest, by the persuasion of our spirit, the resistance of our passion, indolence, or fear. Consecrate with thy presence the way our feet may go; and the humblest work will shine, and the roughest place be made plain. Lift us above unrighteous anger and mistrust, into faith, and hope, and charity, by a simple and steadfast reliance on thy sure will: and so may we be modest in our time of wealth, patient under disappointment, ready for danger, serene in death. In all things draw us to the mind of Christ, that thy lost image may be traced again, and thou mayest own us as at one with him and thee. Amen. [32]

JAMES MARTINEAU

FOR KINDNESS

O THOU GOD OF LOVE, who makest thy sun to rise on the evil and on the good, and sendest rain on the just and on the unjust, grant that we may become more and more thy true children, by receiving into our souls more of thine own spirit of ungrudging and unwearying kindness. [15]

JOHN HUNTER

FOR VICTORY OVER TEMPTATION

O LORD, Shield of our help, who wilt not suffer us to be tempted above that we are able, help us, we entreat thee, in all our straits and wrestlings, to lift up our eyes unto thee, and stay our hearts on thee; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen. [59]

CHRISTINA G. ROSSETTI

FOR SPIRITUAL BLESSINGS

FATHER and King,
We pray thee for the quiet mind
Which, in the midst of hurry and turmoil,
Can at any time turn directly to thyself,
And be immediately at peace.

We pray thee for the enlightened imagination
Which gazes through form and delusion to reality,
Perceiving unerringly, of its own keen piercing insight,
Those eternal truths of the spirit
Which lie behind the pasteboard scenery of this world.

We pray thee for the mastered will
Which attunes us spontaneously and unconsciously to thy will.
We pray thee for the life which is hid in thee,
The life that demands nothing for itself
But is wholly content in showing thee forth to men.

We pray thee for the stalwart faith,
Which gives unto us, whilst still we live here amongst men,
The facts and substance of eternal life
In a reality far beyond all other reality,
In a knowledge far transcending the knowledge of touch and sight. [120]

J. S. Hoyland

GENERAL PETITIONS

O God, from whom all holy desires, all good counsels, and all just works do proceed; give unto thy servants that peace which the world cannot give; that our hearts may be set to obey thy commandments, and also that by thee, we, being defended from the fear of our enemies, may pass our time in rest and quietness; through the merits of Jesus Christ our Saviour. Amen. [7]

Gelasian Sacramentary

Eternal and Ever-Blessed God, who art the Author of our life, and the end of our pilgrimage; we beseech thee so to guide us by thy word and Spirit, amid all perils and temptations, that we may not wander from thy way, nor stumble upon the dark mountains; but may finish our course in joy, and come to our eternal rest in thee; through the saving grace of our Lord Jesus Christ. Amen. [3]

The Book of Common Worship

O God, Most Holy, Wise, and Powerful Preserver and Governor of all thy creatures and all their actions; keep us, we beseech thee, in health of body and soundness of mind, in purity of heart and cheerfulness of spirit, in contentment with our lot and charity with our neighbour; and further all our lawful undertakings with thy blessing. In our labour strengthen us; in our pleasure purify us; in our difficulties direct us; in our perils defend us; in our troubles comfort us; and supply all our needs according to the riches of thy grace in Christ Jesus our Lord. Amen. [3]

The Book of Common Worship

Almighty God, the Fountain of all wisdom, who knowest our necessities before we ask, and our ignorance in asking; we beseech thee to have compassion upon our infirmities; and those things which for our unworthiness we dare not, and for our blindness we cannot ask, vouchsafe to give us in the fulness of thy love and grace, which thou hast made known unto us through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen. [27]

The Book of Common Prayer

Almighty God, who alone canst order the unruly wills and affections of sinful men; grant unto thy people that they may love the thing which thou commandest, and desire that which thou dost promise; that so, among the sundry and manifold changes of the world, our hearts may surely there be fixed, where true joys are to be found; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen. [7]

Gelasian Sacramentary

Prevent us, O Lord, in all our doings, with thy most gracious favour, and further us with thy continual help; that in all our works begun, continued, and ended in thee, we may glorify thy holy name, and finally by thy mercy obtain everlasting life; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen. [26]

Gregorian Sacramentary

O THOU, who art the Light of the minds that know thee, the Life of the souls that love thee, and the Strength of the thoughts that seek thee; help us so to know thee, that we may truly love thee, so to love thee that we may fully serve thee, whose service is perfect freedom; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen. [7]

GELASIAN SACRAMENTARY

MOST GRACIOUS GOD, to know and love whose will is righteousness, enlighten our souls with the brightness of thy presence, that we may both know thy will and be enabled to perform it; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen. [57]

ROMAN BREVIARY

O GOD who hast prepared for them that love thee such good things as pass man's understanding; pour into our hearts such love towards thee, that we, loving thee above all things, may obtain thy promises, which exceed all that we can desire; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen. [7]

GELASIAN SACRAMENTARY

GRANT to us, Lord, we beseech thee, the spirit to think and do always such things as be rightful; that we, who cannot do anything that is good without thee, may by thee be enabled to live according to thy will; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen. [47]

LEONINE SACRAMENTARY

LORD OF ALL POWER AND MIGHT, who art the Author and Giver of all good things; graft in our hearts the love of thy name, increase in us true religion, nourish us with all goodness, and of thy great mercy keep us in the same; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen. [7]

GELASIAN SACRAMENTARY

O LORD, who hast taught us that all our doings without charity are nothing worth; send thy Holy Ghost, and pour into our hearts that most excellent gift of charity, the very bond of peace and of all virtues, without which whosoever liveth is counted dead before thee. Grant this for thine only Son Jesus Christ's sake. Amen. [27]

THE BOOK OF COMMON PRAYER

O Heavenly Father, who hast filled the world with beauty; open, we beseech thee, our eyes to behold thy gracious hand in all thy works; that rejoicing in thy whole creation, we may learn to serve thee with gladness; for the sake of him by whom all things were made, thy Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen. [27]

The Book of Common Prayer

O God of Peace, who hast taught us that in returning and rest we shall be saved, in quietness and in confidence shall be our strength; by the might of thy Spirit lift us, we pray thee, to thy presence, where we may be still and know that thou art God; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen. [27]

The Book of Common Prayer

O Thou from whom to be turned away is to fall, to whom to be turned is to rise, and in whom to abide is to stand fast forever; grant us in all our duties thy help; in all our perplexities thy guidance; in all our dangers thy protection; and in all our sorrows thy peace. [15]

John Hunter

Our Father, may the world not mould us today, but may we be so strong as to help to mould the world. [71]

John Henry Jowett

Lord, so prepare our hearts that no affliction may ever so surprise as to overbear us. [72]

Bishop Thomas Wilson

Thou callest us to delight in thy praise, for thou hast made us for thyself, and our hearts find no rest until we rest in thee. [6]

St. Augustine

Be thou in every difficulty our Guide, in temptation our Defence, in weakness our Strength, in weariness our Rest. [73]

Manual of the Guild of St. Barnabas

THOUGH we know not what is best, give to us, Lord, what thou seest fit; only fit us for what thou givest, and let it bring to our souls health and peace, with some good to our neighbour and the world, for thy goodness' sake, O Lord. [61]

ROWLAND WILLIAMS

TEACH us to seek after truth and enable us to gain it; but grant that we may ever speak the truth in love. [74]

THOMAS ARNOLD

IF there has been anything in our work harmful to others and dishonourable to ourselves, reveal it to our inner eye with such clearness that we shall hate it and put it away, though it be at a loss to ourselves. [56]

WALTER RAUSCHENBUSCH

GRANT that by the insight of love we may understand our brother in his wrong, and if his soul is sick, to bear with him in pity and to save him in the gentle spirit of our Master. Make us determined to love even at cost to our pride, that so we may be soldiers of thy peace on earth. [56]

WALTER RAUSCHENBUSCH

TEACH us to put to good account whatever talents thou hast lent to us, and enable us to redeem our time by patience and zeal. [30]

BISHOP BROOKE FOSS WESTCOTT

MAY we fear to be unfaithful, and have no other fear. [64]

WILLIAM ANGUS KNIGHT

FILL us with all joy and peace in believing that thou wilt never leave us nor forsake us, but make us perfect, stablish, strengthen, settle us, and be our God for ever and ever, our Guide even over death. [58]

BISHOP SIMON PATRICK

TEACH us that no evil is intolerable but a guilty conscience, and that nothing can hurt us if, with true loyalty of affection, we keep thy commandments and take refuge in thee. [75]

WILLIAM ELLERY CHANNING

O God, Fountain of Love, pour thy love into our souls, that we may love those whom thou lovest with the love thou givest us. [76]

E. B. Pusey

Teach us, good Lord, to serve thee as thou deservest; to give and not to count the cost; to fight and not to heed the wounds; to toil and not to seek for rest; to labour and not to ask for any reward, save that of knowing that we do thy will; through Jesus Christ our Lord. [77]

Ignatius Loyola

Give us, O Lord, a steadfast heart, which no unworthy affection may drag downward; give us an unconquered heart, which no tribulation can wear out; give us an upright heart, which no unworthy purpose may tempt aside. [78]

St. Thomas Aquinas

Be with us in all the changes and chances of this mortal life, so that trouble may never overtake us unprepared, nor temptation assail us undefended by thy grace. [79]

C. J. N. Child

Teach us that it is better to give than to receive, better to forget ourselves than to put ourselves forward, better to minister than to be ministered unto. [67]

Henry Alford

In submission to thy will may our purposes be formed, our labour carried on and ended, and when we are weary of our work, may we continue to put our trust in thee. [91]

Author Unknown

May we possess our souls in patience, however we are tempted and provoked, and not be overcome with evil, but overcome evil with good. [80]

Benjamin Jenks

MAY the strength of God pilot us. May the power of God preserve us. May the wisdom of God instruct us. May the hand of God protect us. May the way of God direct us. May the shield of God defend us. [81]

ST. PATRICK

As thou makest the outgoings of the morning and evening to rejoice, so lift up the light of thy countenance upon us, and make us glad with the tokens of thy love. [80]

BENJAMIN JENKS

GRANT that we may be able to finish what thou hast granted us the wish to begin. [51]

MOZARABIC SACRAMENTARY

LORD, be thou within us, to strengthen us; without us, to keep us; above us, to protect us; beneath us, to uphold us; before us, to direct us; behind us, to keep us from straying; round about us, to defend us. [82]

BISHOP LANCELOT ANDREWES

ENLIGHTEN our minds to know thee, and let us not be unfruitful in that knowledge. [83]

THOMAS À KEMPIS

THE PRAYER OF INTERCESSION

THE PRAYER OF INTERCESSION

ADDRESS TO THE DEITY

O God, who knittest us all together in mutual love and responsibility one for another—[84]

O God, whose way is in the sea and whose paths are in the great waters—[85]

O God, who settest the solitary in families—[14]

O God, who hast formed us for fellowship with one another—[14]

O God, who art the hope of all the ends of the earth—[14]

Almighty God, who lovest all and forgettest none—[14]

O Thou whose presence is everywhere, and whose mercy never faileth—[15]

O God, who givest unto every man the work of his calling as a means of serving thee—[4]

O God, who hast taught us that we are members one of another—[4]

O God of infinite mercy and boundless majesty, whom no distance can part from those for whom thou carest—[7]

O God, of all the ends of the earth, and of all its families—[86]

Almighty God, our Heavenly Father, who lovest all and forgettest none—[15]

O God, who teachest us that love towards the race of men is the bond of perfectness, and the imitation of thy blessed self—[87]

ALMIGHTY AND MOST MERCIFUL FATHER, who hast taught us not to think of ourselves only, but also for the wants of others—[64]

O GOD, patient and loving, who hast set mankind in races and kingdoms that each may be strong in that which others lack, and all be one community in many families—[17]

O GOD, who hast ordained that whatever is to be desired should be sought for by labour, and who by thy blessing bringest honest labour to good effect—[63]

O GOD, who hast set before us the great hope that thy kingdom shall be established upon earth—[19]

O THOU GOD OMNIPOTENT, who so carest for every one of us, as if thou carest for him alone; and so for all, as if all were but one—[6]

O GOD, the Shepherd of all thy people—[57]

O GOD, our Heavenly Father, who hast commanded us to love one another as thy children, and hast ordained the highest friendship in the bond of thy Spirit—[88]

O GOD, the Father, who hast made of one blood all the nations of the earth—[41]

O THOU who art the Light of the world, the Desire of all nations, and the Shepherd of our souls—[41]

PRAYERS

O GOD, the Creator and Preserver of all mankind, we humbly beseech thee for all sorts and conditions of men; that thou wouldest be pleased to make thy ways known unto them, thy saving health unto all nations. More especially we pray for thy holy church universal; that it may be so guided and gov-

erned by thy good spirit, that all who profess and call themselves Christians may be led into the way of truth, and hold the faith in unity of spirit, in the bond of peace, and in righteousness of life. Finally, we commend to thy fatherly goodness all those who are any ways afflicted, or distressed, in mind, body, or estate [*especially those for whom our prayers are desired*]; that it may please thee to comfort and relieve them, according to their several necessities; giving them patience under their sufferings, and a happy issue out of all their afflictions. And this we beg for Jesus Christ's sake. Amen. [89]

BISHOP GUNNING

O THOU ALMIGHTY ONE, who art the one God and Father of all, who hast breathed thine own Spirit into thy children, and made them to be members of one family; we bring to thee, in our common prayer, the burdens of each who bows with us, and of all, throughout the world, who stand in need of thy succour and grace. Give us love, above all gifts, that we may be delivered from all blindness and prejudice, and from whatever else would turn our hearts from one another and from thee. Fill us with that most excellent grace of charity, which suffereth long and is kind, which thinketh no evil, but only good. And create in our hearts, we beseech thee, such a sincere love of one another, that we may be children of our Father in heaven, and true followers of Christ, our Lord.

Almighty Father, we beseech thee to hear us, as we pray for the poor and the ignorant, the friendless and the lonely, the tempted and the unbelieving. Be merciful to those on whom thou hast laid a cross of suffering, the sick in body, and the feeble in mind; to those who are in any danger, necessity, or tribulation; to those who are sad by reason of the losses they have suffered; that in their dark and cloudy day they may know the peace of God. Let thy love surround the infirm and aged; all who are growing weary with the journey of life, and, especially, those who are passing through the valley of death; that they may find eternal rest, and light at evening time; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen. [16]

SERVICE BOOK AND ORDINAL OF THE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF SOUTH AFRICA

O God, most merciful and most gracious, who hast encouraged us in thy holy word to make supplication for all men, we beseech thee for all thy brethren of this nation, of the great cities and the quiet country places, high and low, rich and poor together, that thou wouldst prosper agriculture, manufacture, commerce, and every lawful industry; that thou wouldst cleanse our national life from besetting sins, and remove all causes of division from amongst the people; that thou wouldst fill our hearts with thy love and our homes with thy peace.

And for all the nations of the human race, with their rulers, that thou in thy providence wouldst make an end of war, cruelty, oppression, and ignorance, and grant unto every land the blessings of peace and order, justice and spiritual knowledge.

We beseech thee for the Church Catholic throughout the world, in all its branches and in all its ministries; that thou wouldst further with thy continual favour her work in this land, and in the distant parts of the earth; that thou wouldst heal the divisions among thy Son's disciples, and hasten everywhere the coming of the kingdom of our Lord Jesus Christ. [33]

John Watson

Almighty God, who hast taught us to make supplications, prayers, and intercessions for all men;

We pray for the King (or President) and for all who are in authority; that we may lead a quiet and peaceable life, in all godliness and honesty;

For all ministers of thy Word and Sacraments, and for all who teach and instruct the young; that faith may flourish amongst us and truth be sought and loved by all;

For all who guide the thought of the people by their writings; for all artists, poets, dramatists, and musicians, that pure ideals may inspire us, beauty crown our common life, and that vision be kept alive without which the people perish;

For all who champion the cause of the poor, strive to uplift

the downtrodden, and seek the emancipation of those who toil; that they may be saved from bitterness and disappointment, and in all things seek first the Kingdom of God;

For all who heal the body, guard the health of the people, and tend the sick; that they may follow in the footsteps of Christ, the great Physician both of the body and the soul;

For all those on whose labour we depend for the necessaries of life; for craftsmen, and for those who carry on the commerce of the world; that they may seek not private gain but thy glory and the good of all;

For parents and children; that purity, love, and honour may dwell in our homes, and duty and affection be the bond of all family life;

For the ignorant and tempted; for the rebellious and the fallen; for all prisoners and outcasts; that they may find mercy with thee and receive the grace that can save their souls;

For the weak in body and mind, that they may be restored to health; for those depressed and in pain, that they may be helped and comforted; and for the dying, that they may have thy presence with them through the valley of shadow, and awake to behold thy face.

Mercifully regard, O Lord, the prayers of thy family, and while we submit ourselves to thee with our whole heart, do thou, prosper, support, and encompass us, that, relying on thee as our Guide, we may be entangled in no evils, and replenished with all good; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen. [41] *Abridged*

WILLIAM E. ORCHARD

WE pray, O Lord, that thou wilt so reveal thyself in us, that through us men may be drawn to the love of thee;

That thou wilt give us the gifts of Galilee, the gifts of gaiety and freedom and simplicity to make our tired world grow young again;

That thou wilt pour thy spirit more and more into the life of men; giving us clean laughter and good sportsmanship, kindness, generosity, and gentleness, honour, courtesy, and self-control;

That thou wilt reveal thyself in fellowship; that a world, which rests on competition, may learn from thee the nature of the Father, and by the power of thy Spirit live in love according to his will;

That thou wilt inspire science, art, and letters, to be the expression of God through human skill;

That thou wilt consecrate the discontent of the young and the rebellious; and strengthen the prophets that they may be forerunners of thy kingdom;

That thou wilt give such power to thy Church that she may have life and life more abundantly, with courage to go forward daringly, trusting in thy leadership, and unfettered by the past;

That thou wilt give courage, vision, and true wisdom to our leaders, that they may guide the Church aright, to face the issues of a new world-order;

That thou wilt so change human nature by thy Spirit in the hearts of men, that old things may pass away and there may be a new creation;

That all mankind may come to the knowledge of thee, and may grow to that perfection which is thy Father's will for all his children;

That thou wilt hasten the time which thou hast promised, when all shall be in subjection under thee, and thy kingdom be established in power and thou be all in all,

Till we all come to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, unto a perfect man, unto the measure of the completeness of the personality of Christ. [19] *Adapted*

THE KINGDOM, THE POWER AND THE GLORY

FOR COMRADESHIP OF NATIONS

O GOD, our Father, give to the nations of the world a new heart of comradeship; that every people may bring its tribute of excellence to the common treasury, and all the world may go forward in the new and living way which he hath consecrated for us; who now liveth and reigneth, with thee and the Spirit of Truth, one God, world without end. Amen. [90]

ACTS OF DEVOTION

FOR BROTHERHOOD

O God, our Ruler, give to every State a deeper sense of human brotherhood, a new respect for man and reverence for woman, new loyalty in service, compunction and charity, new happiness in work and justice in reward; that our homes may be restored in thee, our cities rebuilt, and all the world may reflect the radiance of the throne which is eternal in the heavens. Amen. [90]

Acts of Devotion

FOR INTERNATIONAL PEACE

Almighty God, Creator and Redeemer of all mankind, who hast set thy people apart into many nations, we beseech thee to magnify in the hearts of all men their common brotherhood in thee, and so to order the patriotism of all as to increase the love of each for other.

Move the hearts of rulers, so far as in them lies, to spare their several peoples the misery of war; and help the people who acknowledge their authority to lay aside all hate and jealousy of other nations, and to give heed to counsels of friendliness and prudence.

Give thy grace and heavenly benediction to all agencies that strive after peace among the nations. Hasten the day when war shall be no more; nor the widow and orphan of soldier or sailor go about the streets, and the labour of the husbandman be set at naught. Bring speedily the hour when men everywhere shall sing praises unto thy name, giving thanks that the Prince of Peace hath come to reign forever. Amen. [133]

Robert W. Rogers

Break thou the spell of the enchantments that make the nations drunk with the lust of battle and draw them on as willing tools of death. Grant us a quiet and steadfast mind when our own nation clamours for vengeance or oppression. Strengthen our sense of justice and our regard for the equal

worth of other peoples and races. Grant to the rulers of the nations faith in the possibility of peace through justice, and grant to the common people a new and stern enthusiasm for the cause of peace. Bless our soldiers and sailors for their swift obedience and their willingness to answer the call of duty, but inspire them none the less with a hatred for war, and may they never for love of private glory or advancement provoke its coming. May our young men still rejoice to die for their country with the valour of their fathers, but teach our age nobler methods of matching our strength and more effective ways of giving our life for the flag.

O Thou strong Father of all nations, draw all thy great family together with an increasing sense of our common blood and destiny, that peace may come on earth at last, and thy sun may shed its light rejoicing on a holy brotherhood of peoples. [56]

WALTER RAUSCHENBUSCH

ALMIGHTY GOD, from whom all thoughts of truth and peace proceed, kindle, we pray thee, in the hearts of men, the true love of peace, and guide with thy pure and peaceable wisdom those who take counsel for the nations of the earth; that in tranquillity thy kingdom may go forward, till the earth be filled with the knowledge of thy love; through Jesus Christ our Lord. [93]

BISHOP FRANCIS PAGET

O GOD our Father, who didst send thy Son to be the Saviour of all men and the Prince of Peace; look, we pray thee, in mercy upon the nations of the world and prosper all counsels which make for righteousness and peace. Forgive what thou hast seen in us of selfishness and pride, remove far from us the tempers which provoke the spirit of strife; and grant us such a measure of the gentleness and patience of thy Son, that we may live peaceably with all men and be, by thy blessing, the makers of peace; through the same Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen. [4]

A BOOK OF OFFICES AND PRAYERS

O God, who callest the peacemakers thy children, we beseech thee that as thou didst send thy Son with the heavenly voice of peace on earth to be the Prince of Peace to men, so thou wilt keep our hearts and minds in his peace, and make us both to love and defend the same. Guide the counsels of the King (or President) and of all princes and governors, in equity and steadfastness, to establish unity and concord among the nations, that all mankind may render thee the fruits of peace and righteousness; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen. [134] *Adapted*

Diocese of Canterbury

FOR INTERNATIONAL FRIENDSHIP

Almighty God, in whose hand are all the nations of the earth, grant to them all thy guidance and help that they may seek prosperity in promoting the welfare of their people and of all mankind. Grant to all peoples and races that they may feel their kinship with each other since all men are alike the children of the same eternal Father. Restrain them from jealousy, hatred, or selfish ambition. Awaken in them the spirit of justice, fraternity, and concord. Unite them by the bonds of international friendship, that they may work together for the betterment of the whole world. Make wars to cease, and hasten the day when there shall be everywhere peace on earth, and good will among men; this we ask in the name of the Prince of Peace. Amen. [48]

Book of Church Services

FOR OUR COUNTRY

Almighty God, who hast given us this good land for our heritage; we humbly beseech thee that we may always prove ourselves a people mindful of thy favour and glad to do thy will. Bless our land with honourable industry, sound learning, and pure manners. Save us from violence, discord, and confusion; from pride and arrogancy, and from every evil way.

Defend our liberties, and fashion into one united people the multitudes brought hither out of many kindreds and tongues. Endue with the spirit of wisdom those to whom in thy Name we entrust the authority of government, that there may be justice and peace at home, and that, through obedience to thy law, we may show forth thy praise among the nations of the earth. In the time of prosperity, fill our hearts with thankfulness, and in the day of trouble, suffer not our trust in thee to fail; all which we ask through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen. [27]

THE BOOK OF COMMON PRAYER

FOR NATIONAL UNITY

REMEMBER, O Lord, the nation to which we belong; that in righteousness and truth we may be established. Extend, for thy mercies' sake, thy blessing to this our land; that within this realm of divers races, peace may reign and prosperity, and the blessing of the Lord which maketh rich with more than temporal good, with love of right and justice. Help us better to understand and love those who are of a different race or colour from ourselves, remembering that we are all members of the one family. Overcome in us any want of charity, any obliquity, any manner of prejudice, by thy more abounding goodness and lovingkindness. May our agreements be greater than our differences, and may our unity in thee sanctify all our natural diversities of opinion. Reconcile all nationalities and peoples to one another and to thee; and grant that there may be open ways and peace and freedom from end to end of the earth. [16]

SERVICE BOOK AND ORDINAL OF THE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF SOUTH AFRICA

FOR NATIONAL RIGHTEOUSNESS

LORD GOD ALMIGHTY, defend our land, we beseech thee, from the secret power and the open shame of great national sins. From all dishonesty and civic corruption, from all vain-

glory and selfish luxury; from all cruelty and the spirit of violence; from covetousness which is idolatry; from impurity which defiles the temple of the Holy Spirit; and from intemperance which is the mother of many crimes and sorrows; good Lord, deliver and save us, and our children, and our children's children, in the land which thou hast blessed with the light of pure religion; through Jesus Christ, our only Saviour and King. Amen. [3]

THE BOOK OF COMMON WORSHIP

CREATOR AND RULER OF MANKIND, we pray thee this day for our country, that her life may be established and built up in thyself, that all hatred and malice, all indifference to the sufferings of others, all narrow exclusiveness and selfish greed, may be swept away by the breath of thy Spirit, and that public spirit, honour and justice, co-operation in service, self-sacrifice for the good of the whole people, may flourish abundantly amongst us. Purify us from all baseness, fill us with thy divine passion to uplift the weak, to sweep away oppression and wrong, to give to every man the opportunity of a full life that may be lived to thy glory and to the service of mankind; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen. [91]

AUTHOR UNKNOWN

ALMIGHTY GOD, of whose righteous will all things are, and were created; thou hast gathered our people into a great nation, and sent them to sow beside all waters, and multiply sure dwellings on the earth. Deepen the root of our life in everlasting righteousness. Make us equal to our high trusts; reverent in the use of freedom, just in the exercise of power, generous in the protection of weakness. To our legislators and counsellors give insight and faithfulness, that our laws may clearly speak the right, and our judges purely interpret it. May wisdom and knowledge be the stability of our times; and our deepest trust be in thee, the Lord of Nations, and the King of Kings. Amen. [32] *Adapted*

JAMES MARTINEAU

THOU who art the Providence of the World, from whom cometh every good and perfect gift: let thy blessing now rest upon us as a people. Enable every race which thou hast drawn hither by thy guiding spirit to dedicate its noblest gifts to the common good. Grant us wisdom to make the homes of our land abodes of comfort; grant us knowledge to lead all children in the right way. Inspire us with a new sense of sympathy for those who are in sorrow, need, or any other adversity, and for those who are worn with excessive toil. Hasten the day when the sense of kinship shall be firm and strong. Increase in us the manifold gifts of thy spirit, that through thy counsel and might we may do those works which glorify thee and gladden and uplift human lives. So, as co-workers with thee, shall we help to establish good will upon the earth, and to bring thy kingdom to every heart. Amen. [36]

SERVICES FOR CONGREGATIONAL WORSHIP

O GOD, the Protector of all who put their trust in thee: we pray for the good estate of this our beloved land, that it may please thee to preserve to us the blessings of an equal and impartial freedom. Unite in mutual understanding men of alien race and faith; revive in all hearts a spirit of devotion to the public good, that strife and tumult may be appeased and justice and truth be exalted. Enable us and all thy people faithfully to discharge the duties of our different spheres, that so the kingdom of brotherhood and peace may be hastened upon the earth and thy will be done even as now it is done in heaven. Amen. [36]

SERVICES FOR CONGREGATIONAL WORSHIP

O GOD, who hast called our nation to a place of trust and responsibility throughout the world, we humbly thank thee for all the ways in which thou hast blessed and guided us unto this day. We confess before thee, with shame, all that has been evil in our history, and all that even now makes us unworthy to be called a Christian nation. Take from us, we pray thee, all

pride and greed and injustice, and grant to us the spirit of unselfish service which alone can make us great. And may the love of Christ be so truly shown forth among us that his Name may be glorified among all nations; through the same Jesus our Lord. Amen. [52]

A Book of Prayers for Students

FOR PRESIDENT AND PEOPLE

O Lord God of Our Fathers, who in thy goodness hast led this people hitherto by wondrous ways; who makest the nations to praise thee, and knittest them together in the bonds of peace; we beseech thee to pour thine abundant blessing on this nation over which thou hast called thy servant our President. Grant that all, of whatever race or colour, or tongue, may, in prosperity and peace, be united in the bond of brotherhood, and in the one fellowship of the faith, so that we may be found a people acceptable unto thee; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen. [90]

Acts of Devotion

FOR LEADERS OF THE PEOPLE

O Lord, our Heavenly Father, the high and mighty Ruler of the universe, who dost from thy throne behold all the dwellers upon earth; most heartily we beseech thee with thy favour to behold and bless thy servant, the President of these United States, and all who make or execute our laws; and so replenish them with the graces of thy Holy Spirit that they may always incline to thy will, and walk in thy way. Endow them plenteously with heavenly gifts; grant them in health and prosperity long to live; and finally, after this life, to attain everlasting joy and felicity; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen. [27]

The Book of Common Prayer

God of all power and might, and Maker and Ruler of men: we commend our nation to the guidance of thy wisdom, to the keeping of thy love. May the rulers whom thy people chose to serve them, serve thee in honesty of purpose and uprightness of life. May they never forget their answerableness to the people whom they serve and to their people's God. Deliver them from the love of power and from motives of personal gain; from considerations of men or money in place of the demands of truth and justice; and from losing patriotism in partisanship. Bless them in their ministry with an ever larger vision of the truth, an ever deeper sense of the demands of righteousness, that through their faithfulness the life of our people may be guided by wise policies, and lifted to higher ideals and nobler achievements; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen. [4]

A Book of Offices and Prayers

Almighty God, who alone givest wisdom and understanding; inspire, we pray thee, the minds of all to whom thou hast committed the responsibility of government and leadership in the nations of the world. Give to them the vision of truth and justice, that by their counsels all nations and classes may work together in true brotherhood, and thy church may serve thee in unity and peace; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen [90]

Acts of Devotion

O God, thou great Governor of all the world, we pray thee for all who hold public office and power, for the life, the welfare, and the virtue of the people are in their hands to make or to mar. Strengthen the sense of duty in our political life. Purge our cities and states and nation of the deep causes of corruption which have so often made sin profitable and uprightness hard. Bring to an end the stale days of party cunning. Breathe a new spirit into all our nation. Lift us from the dust and mire of the past that we may gird ourselves for a new day's work. Give our leaders a new vision of the possible

future of our country and set their hearts on fire with large resolves. Raise up a new generation of public men, who will have the faith and daring of the Kingdom of God in their hearts, and who will enlist for life in a holy warfare for freedom and rights of the people. [56]

WALTER RAUSCHENBUSCH

FOR THE CHURCH

GRACIOUS FATHER, we humbly beseech thee for thy universal Church. Fill it with all truth, in all truth with all peace. Where it is corrupt, purge it, and where it is in error, direct it; where it is superstitious, rectify it; where anything is amiss, reform it; where it is right, strengthen and confirm it; where it is in want, furnish it; where it is divided and rent asunder, make up the breaches thereof, O thou holy One of Israel; for the sake of Jesus Christ our Lord and Saviour. Amen. [94]

ARCHBISHOP LAUD

O LORD GOD, who dwellest on high yet delightest to have thy habitation in the hearts of men; thou hast built thy Church as a city upon a hill, and laid the foundations of it upon the apostles and prophets, Jesus Christ being the chief corner-stone; make us to be a spiritual building fit for the indwelling of thy Holy Spirit, grounding us in faith, building us up in hope, and perfecting us in charity, that we, joined in the union of the Church militant upon earth, may enter into thy Church triumphant in heaven; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen. [136]

JEREMY TAYLOR

O GOD, who didst send thy Word to speak in the Prophets and live in thy Son, and appoint thy Church to be witness of divine things in all the world; revive the purity and deepen the power of its testimony; and through the din of earthly interests and the storm of human passions, let it make the still small voice of thy Spirit inly felt. Nearer and nearer may thy King-

dom come from age to age; meeting the face of the young as a rising dawn, and brightening the song of the old, "Lord, now lettest thou thy servant depart in peace." Already let its light abash our guilty negligence, and touch with hope each secret sorrow of the earth. By the cleansing spirit of thy Son, make this world a fitting fore-court to that sanctuary not made with hands, where our life is hid with Christ in God. Amen. [32]

JAMES MARTINEAU

O GOD, our Shepherd, give to the Church a new vision and a new charity, new wisdom and fresh understanding, the revival of her brightness and the renewal of her unity; that the eternal message of thy Son, undefiled by the traditions of men, may be hailed as the good news of the new age; through him who maketh all things new, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen. [95]

PERCY DEARMER

O GOD, we pray for thy Church, which is set today amid the perplexities of a changing order, and face to face with a great new task. Baptize her afresh with the life-giving spirit of Jesus. Grant her a new birth, though it be with the travail of repentance and humiliation. Bestow upon her a more imperious responsiveness to duty, a swifter compassion with suffering, and an utter loyalty to the will of God. Put upon her lips the ancient gospel of her Lord. Help her to proclaim boldly the coming of the Kingdom of God and the doom of all that resist it. Fill her with the prophets' scorn of tyranny, and with a Christ-like tenderness for the heavy-laden and down-trodden. Give her faith to espouse the cause of the people, and in their hands that grope after freedom and light to recognize the bleeding hands of the Christ. Bid her cease from seeking her own life, lest she lose it. Make her valiant to give up her life to humanity, that like her crucified Lord she may mount by the path of the cross to a higher glory. [56]

WALTER RAUSCHENBUSCH

FOR MISSIONS

O God, who hast made of one blood all nations of men for to dwell on the face of the whole earth, and didst send thy blessed Son to preach peace to them that are afar off, and to them that are nigh; grant that all the peoples of the world may feel after thee and find thee; and hasten, O Lord, the fulfilment of thy promise to pour out thy spirit upon all flesh; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen. [96]

Bishop George Cotton

Lord of the Nations, who hast broken down in Christ the wall of partition between Jew and Gentile, bond and free; unite the Christian people of different races in the bonds of a true brotherhood. Grant that all who go out to be witnesses of Christ in non-Christian lands may reflect his spirit of self-sacrifice and humble service, and that the young churches of those lands may grow up to a fuller stature by the glad acceptance of their help and fellowship; so that East and West, made one in Christ, may together labour for the bringing in of thy Kingdom; through the same Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen. [52]

A Book of Prayers for Students

O Thou who rulest by thy providence over land and sea, defend and guide and bless the messengers of Christ; in danger be their shield, in darkness be their hope; enrich their word and work with wisdom, joy, and power, and let them gather souls for thee in far fields white unto the harvest.

O Thou who by thy Holy Spirit workest wonders in secret, open the eyes that dimly look for light to see the day-star in Christ; open the minds that seek the Unknown God to know their Heavenly Father in Christ; open the hearts that hunger for righteousness to find eternal peace in Christ. Deliver the poor prisoners of ignorance and captives of idolatry, break down the bars of error, and dispel the shadows of the ancient night; lift up the gates, and let the King of glory and the Prince of Peace come in.

THY kingdom, O Christ, is an everlasting kingdom! Strengthen thy servants to pray and labour and wait for its appearing; forgive our little faith and the weakness of our endeavour; hasten the day when all nations shall be at peace with thee, and every land and every heart throughout the world shall bless the name of the Lord Jesus, to the glory of God the Father. Amen. [137]

HENRY VAN DYKE

O FATHER, we thank thee for the Church which thou hast raised up in many parts of the earth, and we pray for all those whom thou hast called into it. Guide them through perplexities, defend them amidst oppression and hatred, strengthen and uphold those who face persecution for Christ's sake, and evermore enrich them with the gifts of thy Spirit. Grant to all missionaries such grace and humility of spirit as may enable them to learn of those whom they are teaching, and freely to commit to them the care of the Church in their country, that it may increase in strength to accomplish its task. [52]

A BOOK OF PRAYERS FOR STUDENTS

BEHOLD, O God of Nations, how the peoples run together and every nation is mindful anew of all the peoples of the earth. We pray for a world spirit in which to dwell in our own land. So dispose our hearts to other peoples that we may serve them with courtesy, honour their heroic names and minister to their sick or needy in the day of trouble. We pray that war may cease in our hearts, that in all the world men may live at peace. May there be no strife that calls for blood in our minds. We consecrate ourselves to thy love of the world. We pledge our neighbourly service to the stranger from a foreign land who is within our harbours.

To thee, O Most High, dwelling above all the baser passions of men, in light unapproachable, in peace that knows no conflict, we lift up our hearts, as the Son of Man was lifted up; and pray that all men may be drawn unto him, out of all

lands, across all the seas, that they may partake of his Spirit, and that in the unity of the world thou mayest be glorified. Amen. [139]

WARREN H. WILSON

FOR CHRISTIAN UNITY

O GOD OF PEACE, who through thy Son Jesus Christ didst send forth one faith for the salvation of mankind; send thy grace and heavenly blessing upon all Christian people who are striving to draw nearer to thee, and to each other, in the unity of the Spirit and in the bond of peace. Give us penitence for our divisions, wisdom to know thy truth, courage to do thy will, love that shall break down the barriers of pride and prejudice, and an unswerving loyalty to thy holy name. Suffer us not to shrink from any endeavour which is in accordance with thy will, for the peace and unity of thy Church. Give us boldness to seek only thy glory and the advancement of thy Kingdom. Unite us all in thee as thou, O Father, with thy Son and the Holy Spirit, art one God, world without end. Amen. [98]

MANUAL OF PRAYERS FOR UNITY

FOR THE KINGDOM OF GOD

WE bless thee for the inspired souls of all ages who saw afar the shining city of God, and by faith left the profit of the present to follow their vision. We rejoice that today the hope of these lonely hearts is becoming the clear faith of millions. Help us, O Lord, in the courage of faith to seize what has now come so near, that the glad day of God may dawn at last. Make us determined to live by truth and not by lies, to found our common life on the eternal foundations of righteousness and love. Help us to make the welfare of all the supreme law of our land, that so our commonwealth may be built strong and secure on the love of all its citizens. Cast down the throne of Mammon who ever grinds the life of men, and set up thy throne, O Christ, for thou didst die that men might live. [56]

WALTER RAUSCHENBUSCH

FOR INDUSTRIAL PEACE

O God, who hast taught us that we are members one of another, and hast ordained our brotherhood in the bond of thy Spirit; remove, we beseech thee, from among us all distrusts and bitterness in industrial disputes, and all occasion of discontent; that seeking what is just and equal, and caring for the needs of others, we may live and work together in brotherly concord and love; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen. [41]

SOCIETY FOR THE PROPAGATION OF CHRISTIAN KNOWLEDGE

FOR THE WORKERS OF THE WORLD

O God, who hatest nothing that thou hast made, carest for thy creation more than men care for their property, and lovest every soul of man more than a mother her only child; may this same care and love displace man's inhumanity and selfishness, until, in a new sense of the beauty of man's body and the eternal value of his soul, cruelty and neglect, pain and sorrow pass away.

We pray for the coming of the commonwealth where those who toil shall be honoured and rewarded, where a man's worth shall be reckoned higher than the price of the things he fashions with hand or brain, where science shall serve, not destruction or private gain, but preservation and the common good.

We remember those who labour continually under the danger of death, that others may be protected, warmed, and comforted. We are conscious of the sacrifice that others are called upon to make on our behalf. We remember those who are ready to lay down their lives for the preservation of our peace and the provision of our needs. May we so live that such sacrifice shall not have been in vain. May the whole community be stirred to wonder whether men need suffer as they do.

Give inspiration to those who labour at the perfecting of protective science, and who seek the redemption of the workers. Make a new tie of blood sacrifice between us all. Since

thou didst, to our confusion and amazement, declare thy nature most of all in the Craftsman of Nazareth, so once again may redemption spring from the ranks of those who toil.

We do not ask to pass beyond the things of sense and time, but to see in them thy presence; in the crises of our times, thy judgments; in the rising demand for righteousness, the coming of thy kingdom. Amen [18]

WILLIAM E. ORCHARD

FOR MEN AND WOMEN IN BUSINESS

GIVE, we pray, to administrators of business affairs a fresh sense of their privilege; save them from the subtle sins of self-seeking and self-importance; and offer them the supreme happiness of converting prosperity into human welfare, and business life into a witness of thy beneficent purpose for the world. Rescue them from the double life which threatens them,—of business through the week and of religion in occasional hours of worship—that they may maintain consistency of faith and practice; not slothful in business, fervent in spirit, serving the Lord, rejoicing in hope, patient in the tribulations which beset each business career, and in the daily conduct of their difficult affairs continuing steadfast in effective, even if unspoken prayer. [40]

FRANCIS G. PEABODY

FOR SOCIAL RIGHTEOUSNESS

O LORD, we humbly beseech thee that thou who hast taught us to pray for our daily bread, wilt enable us to win and use it according to thy will;

And that thou wilt give men skill and enterprise in husbanding the resources of the earth, that all thy children may have meat enough;

That we may not try to live by bread alone, but measure all our wealth and all our labour by the standard of our Lord;

That the condition of men's daily toil may not starve the souls whom thou hast made for thyself;

That those who labour in production may not be deprived of their share of thy gifts;

That the conscience of mankind may be so aroused, that we shall no more eat the bread of oppression, but work together in comradeship and justice;

That thou wilt give us all a deeper sense of our membership of one another, so that the bonds of our economic life may be the expression of our fellowship in Christ;

That those who have great wealth may be guided to use it rightly to thy glory and to the welfare of their fellow men;

That we may all be led to a fuller recognition of our stewardship to thee for the use of our money and our time;

That thou, O Lord, wilt fill us with the desire to alleviate the humiliation and anxiety of those who cannot find employment.

We beseech thee to hear us

For all who carry heavy burdens, that Christ may refresh them;

For all whose poverty deprives them of the fullness of life;

For the rich for whom the way is hard, that they may find that simplicity which opens the kingdom of heaven.

O Lord Christ, who didst say to thine apostles when they would send away the hungry multitude, They need not depart, give ye them to eat, enable us so to use thy Father's gifts as to relieve the necessities of our brethren: and chiefly help us in our daily work so to reflect the glory of thy Spirit that they may come to thee, the Bread of Life, and see their soul's desire and be satisfied, who livest and reignest with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God for ever and ever. Amen. [19] *Adapted*

THE KINGDOM, THE POWER AND THE GLORY

O GOD, who hast made us a royal priesthood that we might offer unto thee prayer and intercession for all sorts and conditions of men, hear us as we pray;

For all who toil in the burden and the heat of the day that they may enjoy the rewards of their industry, that they may not be defrauded of their due and that we may never cease to

be mindful of our debt to them, remembering with gratitude the multitude of services which must be performed to make our life tolerable;

For those who have authority and power over their fellowmen, that they may not use it for selfish advantage but be guided to do justice and to love mercy;

For those who have been worsted in the battles of life, whether by the inhumanity of their fellows, their own limitations or the fickleness of fortune, that they may contend against injustice without bitterness, overcome their own weaknesses with diligence and learn how to accept what cannot be altered, with patience;

For the rulers of nations that they may act wisely and without pride, and seek to promote peace among the peoples and establish justice in our common life;

For the teachers and ministers of the word, for artists and interpreters of our spiritual life that they may rightly divide the word of truth and not be tempted by pride or greed or any ignoble passion to corrupt the truth to which they are committed;

For prophets and seers and saints who awaken us from our sloth that they may continue to hold their torches high in a world darkened by prejudice and sin and never be disobedient to the heavenly vision.

O God, who hast bound us together in this bundle of life, give us the grace to understand how our lives depend upon the courage, the industry, the honesty and the integrity of our fellowmen, that we may be mindful of their needs, grateful for their faithfulness and faithful in our responsibilities to them, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen. [49]

REINHOLD NIEBUHR

FOR SOCIAL REFORMATION

MOST MERCIFUL FATHER, who hast set us in communities, and bound us together by common duties and sympathies, we lift our hearts to thee and pray with one accord that thou wouldst

send thy blessing upon our city and nation, prospering every honest man, sweeping away every temptation to evil, delivering the weak of our people from intemperance and vice of every kind, feeding men's hands with labour and their mouths with bread, and spreading through every home thy love and knowledge, that we may praise thee evermore through Jesus Christ our Lord. [33]

JOHN WATSON

FOR EMPLOYERS

WE invoke thy grace and wisdom, O Lord, upon all men of good will who employ and control the labour of men. When they are tempted to follow the ruthless ways of others, and to sacrifice human health and life for profit, do thou strengthen their will in the hour of need, and bring to naught the counsel of the heartless. May they not sin against the Christ by using the bodies and souls of men as mere tools to make things, forgetting the human hearts and longings of these their brothers. Raise up among us employers who shall be makers of men as well as of goods. Give us men of faith who will see beyond the strife of the present and catch a vision of a nobler organization of our work, when all will still follow the leadership of the ablest, not in fear but by the glad will of all, and when none shall be master and none shall be man, but all shall stand side by side in a strong and righteous brotherhood of work. [56]

WALTER RAUSCHENBUSCH

FOR THOSE WHO LABOUR

O LORD, our God, who through thy Son Jesus Christ hast consecrated labour to the welfare of mankind, prosper, we pray thee, the industries of this land; bless all those who are engaged therein; shield them in their dangers and temptations, and grant that, receiving the due fruits of their labours, they may praise thee by living according to thy will; through the same Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen. [90]

ACTS OF DEVOTION

O God, thou mightiest Worker of the universe, Source of all strength and Author of all unity, we pray thee for our brothers the industrial workers of the nation. As their work binds them together in toil and danger, may their hearts be knit together in a strong sense of their common interests and so fulfil the law of Christ by bearing the common burdens. Grant the organizations of labour quiet patience and prudence in all disputes. Raise up leaders of able mind and large heart, and give them grace to follow wise counsel. Bless all classes of our nation, and build up a great body of workers strong of limb, clear of mind, glad to labour, striving together for the final brotherhood of all men; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen. [56]

Walter Rauschenbusch

FOR THOSE WHO TOIL BY NIGHT

Our Father, as we turn to the comfort of our rest, we remember those who must wake that we may sleep. Bless the guardians of peace who protect us against men of evil will, the watchers who save us from the terrors of fire, and all the many who carry on through the hours of the night the restless commerce of men on sea and land. We thank thee for their faithfulness and sense of duty. We pray for thy pardon if our covetousness or luxury makes their nightly toil necessary. Grant that we may realize how dependent the safety of our loved ones and the comforts of our life are on these our brothers, that so we may think of them with love and gratitude and help to make their burden lighter. Amen. [56]

Walter Rauschenbusch

FOR THE UNEMPLOYED

Control by thy law of human brotherhood the lawless and futile controversies of our time, that unemployment may be no longer a condition to be endured, but a sickness to be remedied; and that the workers of the world may be redeemed from the

affliction of idleness, and, even more, from the tragic loss of the will to work. Not less earnestly do we pray for those misguided lives which are unemployed by reason of prosperity and self-indulgence; which have lost the zest of work and the self-respect of the worker. We pray for those who have made of life a game and of idleness a vocation. From the perils of the parasitic life, from idleness procured by the idleness of others, from the anæmia of frivolous living, with its normal end in despondency and self-contempt; and from the decay of democracy through the very abundance of its blessings; good Lord, deliver this generation; and summon the prosperous unemployed to the happy task of devising and sustaining work for the unemployed among the poor. [40]

FRANCIS G. PEABODY

O GOD OUR FATHER, whose joy is ever joy in work, and to give us strength of mind and body that we may share that joy with thee, save our multitude of unemployed from the temptations that beset them through our failure to find them work. Keep them from all loss of character, skill and power, and from the despair that comes with constant disappointment. Console those who long to see their wives and little ones in better circumstance, and draw them to thy Son, who, having had no place to lay his head, can feel and understand. And grant that we whom thou hast so richly blessed, may never rest till we have given them beauty for ashes, the oil of joy for mourning, and the garment of praise for the spirit of heaviness; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen. [99]

INDUSTRIAL CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP

OUR HEAVENLY FATHER, who through thy Son hast taught us to pray for daily bread and to bear one another's burdens, sustain with thy love and power those who are in need through lack of work, that they may have faith, courage, and opportunity. Inspire thy people to compassionate, unselfish provision for the needs of all. Grant to us the wisdom to order the life of our nation upon the principles of justice and of brotherhood,

to the conquest of covetousness and of want. All this we ask in the name of him who came to give us life more abundant, thy Son our Master, Jesus Christ. Amen. [140]

BISHOP HENRY K. SHERRILL

FOR THE INDIFFERENT

WE pray thee for those who amid all the knowledge of our day are still without knowledge; for those who hear not the sighs of the children that toil, nor the sobs of such as are wounded because others have made haste to be rich; for those who have never felt the hot tears of the mothers of the poor that struggle vainly against poverty and vice. Arouse them, we beseech thee, from their selfish comfort, and grant them the grace of social repentance. Smite us all with the conviction that for us ignorance is sin, and that we are indeed our brothers' keepers if our own hand has helped to lay him low. Though increase of knowledge bring increase of sorrow, may we turn without flinching to the light and offer ourselves as instruments of thy spirit in bringing order and beauty out of disorder and darkness. [56]

WALTER RAUSCHENBUSCH

FOR STRANGERS IN THE LAND

GOD of our fathers, who didst lead thine ancient people through desert wanderings into the promised land, and who didst guide our Pilgrim sires across the stormy seas to lay here the foundations of this great republic, we implore thy blessing upon those who have lately come from other lands to make their home in this country. Amid strange faces and unaccustomed scenes may they feel that thou art with them. In their loneliness and homesickness may they realize that the Everlasting Friend is beside them, upon whom they may cast all the burden of care and anxiety. Help those about them to give them sympathy and good cheer in the spirit of Christ. May they

prosper in this land of freedom and justice and opportunity, and become loyal and devoted citizens of this country of their adoption. May they be faithful followers of Christ, that they may be also fellow citizens with the saints in that liberty wherewith Christ maketh his people free. Amen. [48]

BOOK OF CHURCH SERVICES

FOR SCHOOLS AND COLLEGES

GRANT, O Lord, to all teachers and students, to know that which is worth knowing, to love that which is worth loving, to praise that which pleaseth thee most, and to dislike whatsoever is evil in thine eyes. Grant us with true judgment to distinguish things that differ, and above all to search out and to do what is well-pleasing unto thee; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen. [142]

THOMAS À KEMPIS

O FATHER of lights and Fountain of all knowledge; bless, we beseech thee, all teachers and institutions of learning, and grant that from them the light of truth may shine with growing brightness on all men, so that wisdom and knowledge may be the stability of our times, in Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen. [3]

THE BOOK OF COMMON WORSHIP

O GOD, who art the only Source of light and wisdom, be pleased to shed forth thy spirit upon all universities, colleges, schools, and places of learning, with their professors, teachers, and students, and so to prosper their studies that they may finally come into the perfect knowledge of thee, whom to know is life everlasting. [33]

JOHN WATSON

GOD OF WISDOM, who guidest thy sons and daughters through days of preparation, and then givest them work to do with thee for thy kingdom, we pray for the young men and women in schools and colleges throughout our land for whom the days of training are about to end, and the work of life to begin. Give

them high ideals of service, and enable them to keep their visions fresh against the world. Guard them from the selfish use of talents given them by thee, who art the giver of all good gifts. Lead them into those places where they may do battle for the right, and give them the glorious sense of fellowship with thee, as they strive to serve their Master, Jesus Christ. Amen. [50]

M. P. N.

FOR CHILDREN

O God, our Heavenly Father, who didst send into the world thy well-beloved Son, our Saviour, as a little child, and who dost love all children as thine own; pour out thy blessing upon the children of our homes, of our church, and of the whole world. Make thy light to shine in their hearts more and more, that they may see thee as their loving Friend and their glorious King, and may follow Jesus Christ as their Master and Redeemer. ~~Deliver them from ignorance and sin.~~ Help them to overcome every temptation through thy grace. Fill them with the Spirit of Christ that they may be pure and unselfish and loyal to thee; and bring them home at last into the glory of the eternal home; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen. [48]

Book of Church Services

FOR WRITERS AND NEWSPAPER MEN

O Thou great Source of Truth and Knowledge, we remember before thee all whose calling it is to gather and winnow the facts for informing the people. Inspire them with a determined love for honest work and a staunch hatred for the making of lies, lest the judgments of our nation be perverted and we be taught to call light darkness and darkness light. Since the sanity and wisdom of a nation are in their charge, may they count it shame to set the baser passions of men on fire for the sake of gain. May they never suffer themselves to be used in drugging the mind of the people with falsehood and prejudice. [56]

Walter Rauschenbusch

FOR MINISTERS OF RELIGION

We pray for those who, under diverse forms and differing administrations, are charged with the conduct of worship and the guidance of souls in their religious experiences and needs. To all such trusted interpreters of thy message to human life give the continuing consciousness of thy sustaining and enlightening presence; that they may speak, not the wisdom of this world, but the hidden wisdom which God has revealed to them by his Spirit. Thou hast summoned them to the solemn privilege of confirming faith, of rebuking sin, and of testifying to the simplicity that is in Christ. Arm them for this high vocation with diligent and open minds, with undiscouraged and patient wills, and with the sword of the Spirit, which disarms controversy by character, and establishes peace by love. Save them from the cheapening of their calling by the arts of the sophist or the dogmatism of the bigot; and rescue them not less from the self-assurance of ignorance and illiberality of liberalism.

To this end, accustom their daily thoughts to dwell on thy purposes and laws, and to practise the presence of God. May they speak as those who have climbed the height of vision, and descend with the glow of that exaltation to interpret and cheer the souls which await their ministry below. We pray not that they may be free from conflicts and defeats, but that they may endure hardness as good soldiers of Jesus Christ; not for a secure and sheltered career, but for courage to bear the vicissitudes of life as those who have heard the uncompromising command: If any man will come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross daily and follow me. May the denying of self become the discovery of self, and the cross that must be borne become the sign not of defeat but of victory. Through rich experiences of insight and power, give them the joy which is reserved for those who are dedicated to thy service,—the joy of making plain to others the way which has been hard to find, the happiness of spiritual authority, the

contentment of self-forgetfulness, and the glad desire to live as those who come not to be ministered unto but to minister, and to give their lives a ransom for many. [40]

FRANCIS G. PEABODY

FOR PHYSICIANS AND NURSES

ALMIGHTY GOD, who dost inspire the hearts of all who would serve thee, we beseech thee to give thine especial blessing unto all physicians and nurses who care for the sick and the afflicted. Give faithfulness and skill to their work, efficiency to the means that they employ, and make them to realize that in their best service, they are serving thee. In the name of the Divine Physician, Christ our Lord. Amen. [5]

BOOK OF COMMON WORSHIP

FOR THE AFFLICTED

GOD of all comfort, we commend to thy mercy all those upon whom any cross or tribulation is laid; the nations who are afflicted with famine, pestilence, or war; those of our brethren who suffer persecution for the sake of the gospel; all such as are in danger by sea or land; and all persons oppressed with poverty, sickness, or any infirmity of body or sorrow of mind. We pray particularly for the sick and afflicted members of this church, and for those who desire to be remembered in our prayers (and for any such known only to ourselves, whom we name in our hearts before thee). May it please thee to show them thy fatherly kindness in the midst of affliction, that their hearts may turn unto thee, and receive perfect consolation and healing, and deliverance from their troubles, for Christ's sake. Amen. [143] *Adapted*

JOHN CALVIN

ALMIGHTY FATHER, who art afflicted in the afflictions of thy people and art full of compassion and tender mercy, hear us as we pray for those who suffer:

For all who are handicapped in the race of life through no

fault of their own; for the defective and the delicate; and all who are permanently injured;

For those whose livelihood is insecure; the over-worked, the hungry, and the destitute; for those who have been downtrodden, ruined, and driven to despair;

For little children, whose surroundings hide from them thy love and beauty; for all the fatherless and motherless;

For those who have to bear their burdens alone, and for all who have lost those whom they love;

For those who are in doubt and anguish of soul, for those who are over-sensitive and afraid;

For those whose suffering is unrelieved by the knowledge of thy love;

For those who suffer through their own wrongdoing.

Set free, O Lord, the souls of thy servants from all restlessness and anxiety; give us that peace and power which flow from thee; and keep us in all perplexities and distresses, in all griefs and grievances, from any fear or faithlessness; that so, upheld by thy strength and stayed on the rock of thy faithfulness, through storm and stress we may abide in thee. Amen. [19]
Adapted

THE KINGDOM, THE POWER AND THE GLORY

FOR THOSE WHO SUFFER

O THOU, who understandest the frailty of the human heart, hear our prayers for those who have been unfortunate in life and bruised in spirit; those who have toiled without success; those who have endured with no outside encouragement; those who have given up all earthly prospects to comfort the aged and care for the maimed; those who are lonely in heart; for them we know not what to ask, but thou knowest, O Lover of Souls. Amen. [90]

ACTS OF DEVOTION

O THOU who art Love, and who seest all the suffering, injustice, and misery, which reign in this world; have pity, we implore thee, on the work of thy hands. Look mercifully upon

the poor, the oppressed, and all who are heavy laden with error, labour, or sorrow. Fill our hearts with deep compassion for those who suffer, and hasten the coming of thy kingdom of justice and truth; for the sake of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen. [41]

EUGENE BERSIER. *Altered by W. E. Orchard*

O ALMIGHTY AND MERCIFUL FATHER, who art the help of the helpless, and the lifter up of the fallen, look down with thy mercy on all who are oppressed in mind, body, or estate; comfort and relieve them, according to their several necessities; give them patience under their sufferings, and a happy issue out of all their afflictions; and this we beg for Jesus Christ His sake. Amen. [100] *Adapted*

DEAN GOULBURN

FOR A SICK PERSON

O FATHER of mercies and God of all comfort, our only help in time of need; we humbly beseech thee to behold, visit, and relieve thy sick servant for whom our prayers are desired. Look upon him in thy mercy; comfort him with a sense of thy goodness; and give him patience under his affliction. In thy good time, and using all wise means, restore him to health, and enable him to lead his life to thy glory; and grant that he may finally dwell with thee in life everlasting; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen. [5]

BOOK OF COMMON WORSHIP

FOR THE MENTALLY DISEASED

O THOU who art the Mind of all creation, we remember to our comfort that thou hast in thy special care all broken, outworn and imperfect minds. Give to those who live with them the understanding and loving spirit of Christ. Enlighten those who are tempted to laugh at such illness, or to regard it with shame. To all who are separated in this life by barriers of mind, grant the comfort of thy Holy Spirit, who with thee and thy Christ, ever liveth and reigneth, one God, world without end. Amen. [90]

ACTS OF DEVOTION

FOR THOSE IN MENTAL DARKNESS

O HEAVENLY FATHER, we beseech thee to have mercy upon all thy children who are living in mental darkness. Restore them to strength of mind and cheerfulness of spirit, and give them health and peace; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen. [5]

BOOK OF COMMON WORSHIP

FOR TIME OF DISASTER

ALMIGHTY GOD, who hast set mankind in the midst of giant forces, tireless servants of those who know and obey, but terrible in the vengeance they take upon the ignorant, upon the disobedient, and upon those whose tired eye or mind wanders for a moment; increase our knowledge, we beseech thee, and hasten the time when we shall live and work among thy wonders of sea and land in full security, finding in them unfailing friends and fellow-workers, and convincing witnesses to divine goodness, wisdom, and power.

Comfort, O Lord, we beseech thee, the souls of thy servants now sorrowing; grant them patience in their bereavement and so strong a confidence in thy wise and righteous rule that, though by reason of pain of heart, they be unable to understand, they may continue to trust and hope; through the might of him who said, Not my will but thine be done. [17]

HUGH CAMERON

FOR THE UNJUSTLY ACCUSED

O LORD, strengthen and support, we entreat thee, all persons unjustly accused or misunderstood. Comfort them by the ever-present thought that thou knowest the whole truth, and wilt in thine own good time make their righteousness as clear as the light. Give them grace to pray for such as do them wrong, and hear and bless them when they pray, for the sake of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen. [59]

CHRISTINA G. ROSSETTI

FOR THOSE IN SORROW

O FATHER of infinite Compassion, God of all Comfort, reveal thyself to those who have been brought into the darkness of sorrow as the Light of Life. Strengthen the hearts that faint under the heavy burden, and support them in the arms of thine infinite love. May they know that in all their distress thou dost care for them with unfailing tenderness. May they remember him who, a man of sorrows and acquainted with grief, was able to say in sorest trial, Father, not my will but thine be done. Help them to bear with patience their affliction, and bring them at last to that heavenly home where God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen. [48] *Adapted*

BOOK OF CHURCH SERVICES

FOR TRAVELLERS

O THOU who art the confidence of the ends of the earth, and of them that are afar off upon the sea, we commend to thine Almighty protection all travellers by sea and land; overshadow them by thy mercy, and surround them with thy love. When they cry unto thee in distress, do thou mercifully send them help and deliverance. Go with them on their journey, and grant to those who are afar from their homes that they may revisit them, in thy good time, in peace. Amen. [13]

BOOK OF COMMON ORDER

FOR FRIENDS AND KINDRED

MOST GRACIOUS GOD, we beseech thee for all who are near and dear to us; for little children, that they may be kept in their innocence; for aged folk, that they may have clear shining at eventide; for men busy with the affairs of life, and women burdened with household cares, that the peace of God may fill their hearts and minds; and for dear friends who are far away, that thou wouldst have them in thy safe keeping and spare us to meet again in thy peace and joy. [33]

JOHN WATSON

ALMIGHTY GOD, whose goodness loved us into life, and whose mercies never fail; we commend to thee all who have a place in our hearts and sympathies; all who are joined to us by the sacred ties of kindred, friendship, and love; all little children who are dear to us; all our neighbours and their households; all who help us to a faithful life, and whose spirit turns our duties into love; keep them both outwardly in their bodies, and inwardly in their souls, and pour upon them the continual dew of thy blessing. [15]

JOHN HUNTER

WE call to mind, O God, before thy throne of grace, all those whom thou hast given to be near and dear to us, and all for whom we are specially bound to pray; beseeching thee to remember them all for good, and to fulfil, as may be expedient for them, all their desires and wants. We commend to thee any who may have wronged us, whether by word or deed, beseeching thee to forgive them and us all our sins, and to bring us to thy heavenly kingdom; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen. [101]

ARCHBISHOP HAMILTON

FOR THE ABSENT

O LORD OUR GOD, who art in every place, from whom no space or distance can ever separate us, we know that those who are absent from each other are present with thee, and we therefore pray thee to have in thy holy keeping those dear ones from whom we are now separated, and grant that both they and we, by drawing nearer unto thee, may be drawn nearer to each other, bound together by the unseen chain of thy love, in the communion of thy spirit, and in the holy fellowship of thy saints. [102]

SIR WILLIAM MARTIN

O LORD OF LOVE, who art not far from any of thy children, watch with thy care those who are far away from us; be thou about their path; be thou within their hearts; be thou their defence upon their right hand; give them unfailing trust in thee;

grant them power against temptation; qualify them for whatever task thou givest them to do; deliver them from the snares of setting duty aside; make it their joy to do thy will. Let not distance break the bonds of love which bind them to us and to thee, but knit us closer in thy love; for the sake of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen. [103]

BISHOP WILLIAM BOYD CARPENTER

O GOD, whose fatherly care reacheth to the uttermost parts of the earth; we humbly beseech thee graciously to behold and bless those whom we love, now absent from us. Defend them from all dangers of soul and body; and grant that both they and we, drawing nearer to thee, may be bound together by thy love in the communion of thy Holy Spirit, and in the fellowship of thy saints; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen. [27]

THE BOOK OF COMMON PRAYER

THE PRAYER BEFORE THE SERMON

THE PRAYER BEFORE THE SERMON

MERCIFUL FATHER, who willest not thy children should wander in darkness; pour the light of thy Spirit into our minds and hearts, that we may discover what is thy holy will, and discern the true from the false, the evil from the good, that we may henceforth walk in all humility in the paths of heavenly wisdom and peace to the glory of thy holy Name. Amen. [15]

JOHN HUNTER

O GOD, forasmuch as without thee we are not able to please thee; mercifully grant that thy Holy Spirit may in all things direct and rule our hearts; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen. [7]

GELASIAN SACRAMENTARY

LET the words of my mouth, and the meditation of our hearts, be acceptable in thy sight, O Lord, our Strength and our Redeemer. Amen. *Adapted*

PSALM 19: 14

O GOD, Author of eternal light, do thou shed forth continual day upon us who watch for thee; that our lips may praise thee, our life may bless thee, our meditations may glorify thee; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen. [25]

SARUM BREVIARY

ALMIGHTY GOD, we invoke thee, the Fountain of everlasting light; and entreat thee to send forth thy truth into our hearts, and to pour upon us the glory of thy brightness, through Christ our Lord. Amen. [25]

SARUM BREVIARY

O LORD, from whom all good things do come, grant to us thy humble servants, that by thy holy inspiration we may think those things that are good, and by thy merciful guiding may perform the same; through our Lord Jesus Christ. Amen. [27]

THE BOOK OF COMMON PRAYER

THE PRAYER AFTER THE SERMON

THE PRAYER AFTER THE SERMON

SANCTIFY, O Lord, both our coming in and our going forth; and grant that when we leave thy house we may not leave thy presence, but be thou ever near unto us and keep us near unto thee, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen. [19]

THE KINGDOM, THE POWER AND THE GLORY

O LORD GOD OF OUR LIFE, who hast given us the rest of this sacred day, grant that the benediction of its restfulness may abide upon us throughout the week. Enable us to carry the influence of its consecration into all that we do; let the praises of our lips rendered to thee this day become praise in our lives. May the power of thy love be with us in every duty; that by pureness, by knowledge, and by tenderness we may glorify thee; through Jesus Christ. Amen. [103]

BISHOP W. BOYD CARPENTER

O GOD, who hast made us glad in the service of thy house; may the blessing we have received pass not away from us, but abide in the sanctuary of our hearts; that we, being helped by thee, may be able in all things to please thy loving eyes; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen. [16]

SERVICE BOOK AND ORDINAL OF THE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF SOUTH AFRICA

O GOD, our true and highest Life, by whom, through whom, and in whom all things live, which live truly and blessedly; we humbly pray thee so to guide and govern us by thy Holy Spirit, that in all the cares and occupations of our daily life we may never forget thee, but remember that we are ever walking in thy sight; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen. [16]

SERVICE BOOK AND ORDINAL OF THE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF SOUTH AFRICA

THE PRAYER AFTER THE OFFERING

THE PRAYER AFTER THE OFFERING

HEAVENLY FATHER, who hast given us all things richly to enjoy, graciously deign to receive these our gifts, which we now lay upon thine altar, and bless us both in the use and the giving of thy mercies; for Jesus' sake. Amen. [113]

HENRY HALLAM SAUNDERSON

LORD OF ALL WORLDS, who art also our Father in heaven; accept, we beseech thee, these offerings which we thy children make unto thee; and grant that the cause to which they are devoted may prosper under thy guidance, to the good of the world, the advancement of thy kingdom, and the glory of thy name; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen. [16]

SERVICE BOOK AND ORDINAL OF THE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF SOUTH AFRICA

ALMIGHTY GOD, our Heavenly Father, who hast spared not thine only Son, but delivered him up for us all, and who with him hast freely given us all things; help us, we beseech thee, with all our gifts to yield ourselves unto thee, that with body, soul, and spirit we may truly serve thee, and in thy service find our deepest joy; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen. [16]

SERVICE BOOK AND ORDINAL OF THE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF SOUTH AFRICA

O GOD, most merciful and gracious, of whose bounty we have all received; accept, we beseech thee, this offering of thy people. Remember in thy love those who have brought it and those for whom it is given; and so follow it with thy blessing that it may promote peace and goodwill among men, and advance the kingdom of our Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ. Amen. [16]

SERVICE BOOK AND ORDINAL OF THE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF SOUTH AFRICA

O God, the Father of mercies; receive thou the offering which we bring thee at this time, as a part of the worship of thy house. May these gifts be symbols of a consecration that knows no limit, that holds nothing back from thee, who givest all; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen. [16]

Service Book and Ordinal of the Presbyterian Church of South Africa

O Giver of every good and perfect gift; we acknowledge thy bounty in these gifts, which we now offer and dedicate unto thee. We pray thee to accept them and multiply them for the work of thy church and the spread of thy kingdom; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen. [16]

Service Book and Ordinal of the Presbyterian Church of South Africa

PRAYERS FOR SPECIAL DAYS AND SEASONS

PRAYERS FOR SPECIAL DAYS AND SEASONS

ADDRESS TO THE DEITY

NEW AND OLD YEAR

ETERNAL GOD, from whom nothing passeth and is gone—[15]

GOD OF GRACE, whose compassions fail not—[15]

O THOU in whose appointment our life standeth—[15]

ALMIGHTY AND ETERNAL GOD, with whom one day is as a thousand years and a thousand years as one day—[16]

O GOD, our Father, who hast promised that as our days so shall our strength be—[16]

O GOD ETERNAL, who alone abidest while all thy creatures change and pass away—[17]

O GOD who orderest the rising and setting suns and leadest forth the seasons in due succession so that spring and summer, autumn and winter fail not—[17]

EVER-LIVING GOD, by whose mercy we have come to the gateway of another year—[2]

ETERNAL LORD, God of our fathers, with whom a thousand years are as one day, and who hast been our refuge from one generation to another—[104]

O GOD, who art the Creator, Sustainer, and Preserver of life, God of our fathers, God of ourselves—[20]

O GOD, the Framer of the heavens and the Indweller of life, to whom the generations have lifted their hands and hearts in prayer since man became man—[20]

O ETERNAL GOD, to whom the years bring no change—[14]

LENT

O God, who hast appointed for all thy children a war to wage, and a kingdom to win—[105]

O God, who by the example of thy Son our Saviour Jesus Christ hast taught us the greatness of true humility, and dost call us to watch with him in his passion—[41]

O God, with whom is the fountain of life, and without whom we can do nothing; whose grace is sufficient for us, and whose strength is made perfect in weakness—[106]

O God, who hast brought us to this holy time, wherein we renew the memory of our Redeemer's Passion—[55]

Almighty God, the refuge of all that are distressed—[21]

Almighty God, the Fountain of life, who hast ordained that thy children may find life in the way of thy commandment, and in the path of thy service—[107]

O Lord, our Guide even unto death—[59]

O God, who hast given unto us thy Son to be an example and a help to our weakness in following the path that leadeth unto life—[57]

EASTER

O God, who dost bring men out of darkness and the shadow of death—[57]

Almighty and Merciful God, who dost grant unto thy faithful people the grace to make every path of life temporal the straight and narrow path which leadeth unto life eternal—[57]

ALMIGHTY GOD, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who didst raise up thy Son from the dead, and give him glory, that our faith and hope might be in thee—[5]

ALMIGHTY GOD, who hast brought again from the dead our Lord Jesus, Prince of Life, giving him victory over death and the grave—[13]

ALMIGHTY GOD, by whose power thy Son Jesus Christ overcame death, and became the Life and Light of our undying souls—[13]

PENTECOST

O GOD, who through the grace of thy Holy Spirit dost pour the gift of love into the hearts of thy faithful people—[25]

O HEAVENLY KING, thou Comforter and Spirit of Truth, who art in every place, and fillest the whole world with the treasures of thy goodness—[31]

O GOD, the Father, who givest the Holy Spirit to them that ask thee—[41]

O ETERNAL GOD, the Father of spirits and the Lover of souls, who didst send thy Holy Spirit upon thy Church on the day of Pentecost—[108]

NATIONAL HOLIDAYS

O GOD, who art the author and giver of law, from whom alone all just designs and righteous judgments proceed—[56]

O THOU who openest thy hand and satisfiest the hunger of the body for food, of the eye for beauty, of the heart for love, of the mind for knowledge—[17]

O GOD OF NATIONS, who through prophets of old hast foretold the day when armaments of war shall be beaten into implements of peace—[5]

O God, who hast taught us that righteousness exalteth a nation—[14]

O God who art peace everlasting, whose chosen reward is the gift of peace, and who hast taught us that the peacemakers are thy children—[51]

O God, who dost lead us through memory to an ever deeper appreciation of life's mystery and life's beauty—[20]

O God, the Bestower of peace and the Lover of good will—[7]

Almighty God, in whose presence do live the spirits of the just made perfect—[88]

Lord God of Hosts, in whom our fathers trusted, and found their faith rewarded by thy gracious care—[5]

God of Our Fathers and our God—[5]

Almighty God, from whom all thoughts of truth and peace do proceed—[5]

LABOUR DAY

O God, who hast commanded that no man should be idle—[32]

O God of Love, who hast given a new commandment through thine only begotten Son, that we should love one another, even as thou didst love us—[60]

O God, thou mightiest worker of the universe, source of all strength, and author of all unity—[56]

O Thou great Champion of the outcast and the weak—[56]

Almighty God, who dost work without ceasing, and who didst sanctify toil by the labour of thy Son as a carpenter—[5]

ALL SAINTS' DAY

ALMIGHTY AND EVERLASTING GOD, the Brightness of faithful souls—[26]

ALMIGHTY AND EVERLASTING GOD, who dost enkindle the flame of thy love in the hearts of the saints—[109]

O GOD of the prophets, the saints, and seers of every age—[20]

O LORD, the God of mercy, unto whom all live—[110]

ADVENT

O GOD OF HOPE, who hast taught us by thy holy apostle that by hope we are saved—[5]

ALMIGHTY AND EVER-BLESSED GOD, who in the fulness of time didst send forth thy Son to be the Saviour of the world—[1]

O THOU who art ever coming to us in the events that befall us—[1]

ALMIGHTY GOD, who in thy Providence hast made all ages a preparation for the kingdom of thy Son—[15]

ALMIGHTY AND ETERNAL GOD, whose light doth shine in mortal darkness—[15]

SPIRIT OF THE LIVING GOD, Source of light and life, who in the days of old, when men were wandering in the mists of their own thoughts, spake to them by prophets and guided them through apostles in the way of righteousness and truth—[39]

CHRISTMAS

ALMIGHTY AND ETERNAL GOD, who hast revealed thy nature in Christ Jesus thy Son as Love—[111]

ALMIGHTY GOD, who hast caused the light of eternal life to shine upon the world—[112]

O GOD, to whom glory is sung in the highest, while on earth peace is proclaimed to men of good will—[51]

ETERNAL FATHER, from whom every family in heaven and earth is named, who didst send thy Son to seek and save that which was lost—[41]

O GOD OUR FATHER, who didst send forth thy Son to be King of Kings and Prince of Peace—[41]

PRAYERS

THE NEW YEAR

EVER-LIVING GOD, by whose mercy we have come to the gateway of another year; grant that we may enter it with humble and grateful hearts; and confirm our resolution, we beseech thee, to walk more closely in thy way, and labour more faithfully in thy service, according to the teaching and example of thy Son our Lord. Let not the errors and offenses of the past cling to us, but pardon us and set us free, that with purer purpose and a better hope we may renew our vows in thy presence, and set forth under the guidance of thy Spirit, to travel in the path which shineth more and more unto the perfect day of thy Heavenly Kingdom. Amen. [3]

THE BOOK OF COMMON WORSHIP

O THOU who art from everlasting to everlasting, without beginning or end of days; replenish us with heavenly grace, at the beginning of this year, that we may be enabled to accept all its duties, to perform all its labours, to welcome all its mercies, to meet all its trials, and to advance through all it holds in store for us, with cheerful courage and a constant mind. O Lord, suffer us not to be separated from thee, either

by joy or sorrow, or by any sin or weakness of our own; but have compassion upon us, and forgive us, and keep us in the strong confidence of thine eternal love in Jesus Christ; that as thou hast called us to immortality through him, so we may pass the residue of our years in the power of an endless life; and to thy name shall be all the praise. Amen. [3]

- THE BOOK OF COMMON WORSHIP

ETERNAL GOD, who makest all things new, and abidest forever the same; grant us to commence this year in thy faith, and to continue it in thy favour; that, being guided in all our doings, and guarded all our days, we may spend our lives in thy service, and finally, by thy grace, attain the glory of everlasting life; through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen. [41]

WILLIAM E. ORCHARD

ALMIGHTY GOD, the unfailing Source of light and mercy, who hast brought us to the beginning of this year, and art sparing us to love thee and to keep thy commandments; prepare us, we beseech thee, for the coming days. Let thy grace enlighten our darkness, and strengthen our weakness. Help us to forget the sins and sorrows of the past, cherishing only the wisdom and the humility they may have taught us. Inspire us with new purposes and new hopes. Deepen within our hearts the love of truth and goodness. Enable us to discern the solemn meaning of these earthly days, and the high and sacred purpose for which they are given. Suffer us not to be unfaithful to thee. Thou hast richly blessed us hitherto; still lead us by thy hand; still admonish and guide us by thy spirit; and leave us not to ourselves, thou Good Shepherd of the sheep. Let not our sin take from us the thought that we are thine. Let not the sorrow and weariness of life nor the darkness and mystery of the world rob us of our faith in thee. Whatever light may shine or shadow fall, keep us in the fellowship of those who trust and obey thee, and in the love and service of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen. [15]

JOHN HUNTER

O God, eternal and changeless, who through ever-changing scenes of joy and pain, effort and rest, leadest thy people to a nobler destiny than they ever of themselves conceive; grant that, having our minds steadfastly set upon thy commandments and being continually directed by thy voice speaking to us in the events of the passing hour, we may meet with courage whatever the coming days may bring of evil or of good, being afraid of nothing that man or the world may do or threaten, and fearful only of falling below those things which thou hast prepared for us and set forth in the gospel of thy Son our Saviour Jesus Christ.

For the coming days cause thy grace, O Almighty God, to triumph over our infirmities, and grant us inwardly such increased steadfastness, and in our lives such a larger harvest of good that through sunshine and storm we may trust and not be afraid, work and not be weary, suffer and not complain, overcome all evils with patience, and in humility and peace possess our souls; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

To thee, most gracious Father, we dedicate ourselves and all that we have, beseeching thee to guide our hands, our minds, and our whole energies to those things which are worthy of ourselves and pleasing to thee; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen. [17]

Hugh Cameron

Almighty Father, who with untiring love dost watch over thy children from one generation to another, amid all the changes of our earthly life thou abidest. Graciously help us to abide in thee, that evermore we may be steadfast and strong. For the light that never failed and the grace that never left us in the days gone by; for the visions that dispelled our doubt and the hopes that chastened our sorrow, we lift up our hearts to thee in praise and joy. May the coming days be filled with a high sense of the sacredness of life and the value of time. With the dawning of each new day, shine on us with thy face. Uplift our hearts by the thought of the glory of our calling in Christ and of the joy that is set before us in his service. May the

numberless memories of thy patient love deliver us from every crooked way, from every evil thought and imagination, that when all our days on earth are done we may be set before the presence of thy glory without blemish in exceeding joy; through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen. [38]

ALBERT PARKER FITCH

ASH WEDNESDAY

ALMIGHTY AND EVERLASTING GOD, who hatest nothing that thou hast made, and dost forgive the sins of all them that are penitent; create and make in us new and contrite hearts, that we, worthily lamenting our sins, may obtain of thee, the God of all mercy, perfect remission and forgiveness; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen. [27]

THE BOOK OF COMMON PRAYER

LENT

O MERCIFUL FATHER, who in compassion for thy sinful children didst send thy Son Jesus Christ to be the Saviour of the world; grant us grace to feel and to lament our share in the evil which made it needful for him to suffer and to die for our salvation. Help us by self-denial, prayer, and meditation to prepare our hearts for deeper penitence and a better life. And give us a true longing to be free from sin, through the deliverance wrought by Jesus Christ our only Redeemer. Amen. [3]

THE BOOK OF COMMON WORSHIP

FATHER OF SPIRITS: we bless thee for every gracious and holy soul that hath led us nearer to thee; and especially for him who to us hath chiefly been the way, the truth, and the life. We bless thee that, in every darker passage of our pilgrimage, in the strife of temptation, in the hour of danger, in solitude of spirit, in the weakness of anguish, and the paths of death, we may fix our eye on him as the leader of faithful souls, who hath divinely borne our woes and passed to thy glorious rest.

Give us wisdom to walk as he walked; and by keeping ever close to thee may we too have strength to overcome the world. May no pleading of indolence and fear, no levity or vainglory, no coldness of faith and love, withold us from strenuously doing thy will and finishing thy work. [32]

JAMES MARTINEAU

O THOU, whose Word hath appeared, full of grace and truth in our humanity, more and more let the same mind be in us which was also in Christ Jesus, that we may look for no final peace without the cross. By a patient, loving, trustful spirit, steadfast under evil and hopeful of all good, may we rise into ever nearer communion with thee; and then, in thine own best time, when we are purified by thy grace and prepared for the rest that remaineth, join us at length to the august and saintly company of thy redeemed. [32]

JAMES MARTINEAU

O GOD, our everlasting hope, who holdest us in life, and orderest our lot; we ask not for any prosperity that would tempt us to forget thee. As disciples of One who had not where to lay his head, may we freely welcome the toils and sufferings of our humanity, and seek only strength to glorify the cross thou layest on us. Every work of our hand may we do unto thee; in every trouble, trace some lights of thine; and let no blessing fall on dry and thoughtless hearts. Redeeming the time, may we fill every waking hour with faithful duty and well-ordered affections, as the sacrifice which thou hast provided. Strip us, O Lord, of every proud thought; fill us with patient tenderness for others, seeing that we also are in the same case before thee; and make us ready to help, and quick to forgive. And then, fix every grace, compose every fear, by a steady trust in thine eternal realities, behind the changes of time and delusions of men. Thou art our Rock: we rest on thee. Amen. [32]

JAMES MARTINEAU

ALMIGHTY GOD, who knowest the weakness which we are slow to confess even to ourselves, take from us, we beseech thee, the faithless mind that would shrink from the way by which thou leadest, and draw back from the harder paths of a dutiful life. As disciples of the Man of Sorrows, may we steadfastly set our face to go to our Jerusalem, prepared to meet all the counsels of thy will, and to be obedient even unto death, seeking only for strength to glorify the cross thou layest on us. Amen. [15]

JOHN HUNTER

ALMIGHTY GOD, we thank thee for the life of Jesus Christ; that he lived his divine life among men, ministering to their needs and showing them the way of life. Open our eyes that we may see him; enlighten our understanding that we may know him, and strengthen our wills that we may follow him. Unite thy people in fellowship through prayer. May we be refreshed in the inner life, be purified by thy cleansing power and blessed by the indwelling of thy Holy Spirit; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen. [39]

PRAYERS FOR THE CHRISTIAN YEAR

PALM SUNDAY

OUR FATHER, as on this day we keep the special memory of our Redeemer's entry into the city, so grant, O Lord, that now and ever he may triumph in our hearts. Let the King of grace and glory enter in, and let us lay ourselves and all we are in full and joyful homage before him; through the same Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen. [39]

PRAYERS FOR THE CHRISTIAN YEAR

GOD AND FATHER OF OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST, who didst lead thy Son through the rejoicing multitudes and on unto a hill where stood a cross, that in him might be fulfilled the ancient longing for one who should speak peace unto the world, make us, we beseech thee, sharers in his devoted spirit as we remember the glory of his triumphant journey. Teach us to set our

faces steadfastly to oppose all which would crucify afresh the Christ-spirit in our midst. Give us the faith in thee which supported him and led him onward in the way of thine appointing. Lead us from our fruitless worship of power and might, towards him who comes in meekness and in all humility, that we may be ruled by him, and our world become indeed the kingdom of the Christ. Amen. [50]

M. P. N.

O God of Love, whose most gracious Son rode into a city which hailed him and then rejected him, we look to thee, a company of men and women who would give themselves to be his followers. We give thee thanks that his spirit is forever seeking entrance into our world's life—coming as the impulse to sympathy between man and man, as the will to brotherhood eager to banish all suspicion and hatred, as the self-giving spirit which bears the burdens of others even to a cross. Give us responsive spirits, that as he meets us in the life of our time, we may know him for the revelation of thy truth, and receive him as our Lord and King. Forbid that we should hail him as Master when all men speak well of him, and then deny him in the lonely hour of his rejection. Increase our faith in him as thine own Word to us, that we may deny ourselves and take up what cross thou givest us, and follow him.

Father of mankind, who bearest on thine own heart the sufferings and the sins of thy sons and daughters, we beseech thee to pardon us that we so often close the gates against the entrance of his spirit. Forgive us for the love of self, which will not suffer him to lead us to a larger life. Deliver us from the rivalries and ambitions which hold him from his rightful leadership of the nations. Free us from the deluded pride which forbids his spirit to create friendliness among the races. Pardon us for our unwillingness to let him fill industry and commerce with friendliness and common service. As our world this day echoes with the ancient story of the meek King who came into his own, grant that we may break down

every barrier which we have built against his entrance, and say from our hearts, Blessed be he that cometh in the name of the Lord.

Most compassionate Father, who longest to lead all thy children out of darkness into thy marvellous light, send the spirit of thy Son this day to all who sit in darkness within the walled cities of their own sorrows or perplexities. May they hear the song of rejoicing of those who have found him their Saviour and Helper, and fling wide the gates of their spirits that he may bring them peace. Amen. [50]

M. P. N.

GOOD FRIDAY

ALMIGHTY FATHER, the strength of all valiant spirits, be thou with us when we are tried to the uttermost. As thou didst strengthen the will of Christ in Gethsemane, and didst walk with him, his unseen comrade, on the road to Calvary, so do thou walk with us on the straight hard road of duty. As we follow the path of sacrifice, grant that we endure hardship as good soldiers of Jesus Christ. Strengthen us by discipline, refine our spirits as by fire, and grant that steadfastly we set our hearts upon the realities that are eternal. Amen. [113]

HENRY HALLAM SAUNDERSON

ALMIGHTY GOD, whose most dear Son went not up to joy but first he suffered pain, and entered not into glory before he was crucified; mercifully grant that we, walking in the way of the Cross, may find it none other than the way of life and peace; through the same Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen. [27]

THE BOOK OF COMMON PRAYER

ALMIGHTY GOD, who in the life and teaching of thy Son hast showed us the true way of blessedness, thou hast also showed us in his suffering and death that the path of love may lead to the cross, and the reward of faithfulness may be a crown of thorns. Give us grace to learn these harder lessons. May we

take up our cross and follow Christ in the strength of patience and the constancy of faith; and may we have such fellowship with him in his sorrow that we may know the secret of his strength and peace, and see even in our darkest hour of trial and anguish the shining of the eternal light. Amen. [15]

JOHN HUNTER

ALMIGHTY AND EVERLASTING GOD, who, of thy tender love towards mankind, hast sent thy Son, our Saviour Jesus Christ, to take upon him our flesh, and to suffer death upon the cross, that all mankind should follow the example of his great humility; mercifully grant that we may both follow the example of his patience, and also be made partners of his resurrection; through the same Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen. [27]

THE BOOK OF COMMON PRAYER

EASTER

ALMIGHTY GOD, who hast brought again from the dead our Lord Jesus, the glorious Prince of salvation: grant us power, we beseech thee, to rise with him to newness of life, that we may overcome the world with the victory of faith, and have part at last in the resurrection of the just. Amen. [13] *Abridged*

BOOK OF COMMON ORDER

ALMIGHTY GOD, Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who didst raise up thy Son from the dead and give him glory, that our faith and hope might be in thee; quicken us also, we beseech thee, by thy mighty power, from the death of sin to the life of righteousness, and cause us to set our affections on things above. Amen. [13] *Abridged*

BOOK OF COMMON ORDER

ALMIGHTY GOD, our Heavenly Father, who didst bring again from the dead our Lord Jesus, that great Shepherd of the sheep: aid us now, we beseech thee, by thy Holy Spirit that we may worthily celebrate his glorious resurrection. Deliver

us from all worldly thoughts and cares, so that we may truly and gladly worship thee, and, when we leave thy house, be enlightened, comforted, and fortified, to live a life of joyful trust, to love thee more fervently, and more faithfully serve thee. And this we ask through Jesus Christ our Lord, to whom, with thee, the Father, and the Holy Spirit be ascribed all might, majesty, dominion, and power, world without end. Amen. [1]

HUBERT L. SIMPSON

SPIRIT of all grace and benediction, Father of Jesus Christ and our Father, Creator of these dying bodies, Life and Light of these undying souls; help us to rise above the earthly to the heavenly; with Christ dying unto sin, and living only unto thee; and from the light of a true life here passing at length into that Presence, where there is fulness of joy and peace forevermore; grant this, O Father, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen. [16]

SERVICE BOOK AND ORDINAL OF THE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF SOUTH AFRICA

O THOU who makest the stars, and turnest the shadow of death into the morning; on this day of days we meet to render thee, our Lord and King, the tribute of our praise; for the resurrection of the spring-time, for the everlasting hopes that rise within the human heart, and for the gospel which hath brought life and immortality to light. Receive our thanksgiving, reveal thy presence, and send into our hearts the Spirit of the Risen Christ. Amen. [41]

WILLIAM E. ORCHARD

MEMORIAL DAY

LORD GOD OF HOSTS, in whom our fathers trusted and found their faith rewarded by thy gracious care, bless us today as we commemorate their valour and their sacrifice. We thank thee for the brave men who in the time of conflict were ready to lay

down their lives if need be in the cause of liberty and righteousness. We thank thee for what they did and suffered on our behalf, in unflinching loyalty to this union of free states, in order that popular self-government might not perish from the earth. Unite all the people of this great nation in a holy purpose to defend the principles of freedom and brotherhood for which they lived and died. Help us to emulate the loyalty of these heroic men. And may the nation, which they helped to establish on an enduring foundation, be ever true to the great ideals of the founders, and gain increasing prosperity as it offers to all beneath its flag justice and equal rights. Purge the land from its evils, and fill it with the spirit of Christ. Make it a mighty factor in changing the whole world into a kingdom of heaven; and we will praise thee evermore. Amen. [48]

BOOK OF CHURCH SERVICES

ALMIGHTY GOD, OUR HEAVENLY FATHER, in whose hands are the living and the dead; we give thee thanks for all those thy servants who have laid down their lives in the service of our country. Grant to them thy mercy and the light of thy presence, that the good work which thou hast begun in them may be perfected; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen. [5]

BOOK OF COMMON WORSHIP

GOD OF OUR FATHERS, who hast made us the heirs of faithful men of all generations who have given themselves to great endeavours and made life nobler because they have walked its ways, we thank thee for every memory which enriches life with high ideals and great purposes. We thank thee for all who have loved this land which we love, who have been eager to establish freedom and justice within our borders, and have given themselves for the fulfilment of their longings. We thank thee for all who have laboured for a friendly world, free from hatred and bitterness, and have spent themselves in their pursuit of peace. We thank thee for all who in school or laboratory, in church or state, in home or industry have sought to fill life with

the mind of Christ. We thank thee for those dear to us, forgotten by the world but still living in our hearts, who rest from their labours, and whose works do follow them. Make this day of memory a day of peace through our faith that they live with us in thy love. Grant that though dead they may still speak to us, bidding us further every cause of righteousness and truth which they have served, and assuring us that they without us shall not be made perfect. Amen. [50]

M. P. N.

PENTECOST

O God, who didst send the Holy Spirit to enkindle the zeal of Christ's followers, waiting in Jerusalem for his promised gift; we beseech thee to pour the same inspiration on thy people here assembled, and on the Church of Jesus throughout the world. Revive the power of the gospel in our hearts, that it may be to us a sacred trust for the blessing of mankind. Enable thy Church to spread the good news of salvation, so that all nations may hear it in their own tongue, and welcome it into their own life. Protect, encourage, and bless all missionaries of the cross; and prosper their word and work; so that Jesus, being lifted up, may draw all men unto him, and the kingdom of the world may become the kingdom of our Lord and of his Christ. Amen. [3]

The Book of Common Worship

God of all peace and consolation, who didst gloriously fulfil the great promise of the gospel by sending down the Holy Ghost on the day of Pentecost, to establish the Church as the house of his continual presence and power among men; mercifully grant unto us, we beseech thee, this same gift of the Spirit, to renew, illuminate, refresh, and sanctify our souls; to be over us and around us like the light and dew of heaven and to be in us evermore as a well of water springing up into everlasting life; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen. [13]

Book of Common Order

O Thou God of Truth, in this time of confusion, help us to know thy will that we may follow thee. May we not be bound by the traditions of men, but rather seek to know thy truth as thou dost reveal it to us day by day. Give us an open mind to the influence of thy Spirit, and to the testimony of those whom thy Spirit has touched. Strengthen us to be loyal to truth whatever the cost, and teach us ways wherein we may share with others that which thou dost reveal unto us; through Jesus Christ. Amen. [39]

Prayers for the Christian Year

O Eternal God, the Father of spirits and the Lover of souls, who didst send thy Holy Spirit upon thy Church on the day of Pentecost, and hast promised that he shall abide with it forever; let that same Spirit lead us into all truth, defend us from all sin, enrich us with his gifts, refresh us with his comfort, rule our hearts in all things, and lead us in the way everlasting; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who with thee and the same Spirit, liveth and reigneth one God, world without end. Amen. [108]

S. Baring-Gould

O God of our Salvation, we praise thy name for thy marvellous loving-kindness and thy manifold gifts, and specially this day we give thee thanks for the promised out-pouring of thy Holy Spirit on them who of old, according to Christ's commandment, were waiting to be endued with power from on high. We bless thee for all gifts and graces of thy Spirit that in ages past have been bestowed on believers, and for all fruit of the Spirit that has been manifested, and still is manifested, in Christian lives; for light and liberty, and zeal, and power; for love, joy, peace, long-suffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, meekness, temperance; and for hearts that are taught to draw nigh to thee with the confidence of children and the expectancy of faith; for all who through the Spirit have been convinced of sin and led to repentance; for all who by his gracious indwelling have been made meet for the inheritance of the saints in

light; for all comfort and strength that we have received, all spiritual understanding that has been brought to us through him, all hopes and yearnings that he inspires after a holier, nobler, and more Christianlike life.

And even as thou hast given the Spirit to abide with thy Church, so we beseech thee to continue in us thy gracious work, instructing us yet more in the knowledge of thy truth, and changing us more and more into the likeness of Christ. Grant that through the Spirit we may be enabled to live and walk in this present world as those who are no longer in bondage to sin, but have entered into the glorious liberty of thy children. [114]

PRAYERS FOR THE CHRISTIAN HOME

CHILDREN'S DAY

O GOD, OUR HEAVENLY FATHER, who didst send into the world thy well-beloved Son, our Saviour, as a little child, and who dost love all children as thine own; pour out thy blessing upon the children of our homes, of our church, and of the whole world. Make thy light to shine in their hearts more and more, that they may see thee as their loving Friend and glorious King, and may follow Jesus Christ as their Master and Redeemer. Deliver them from ignorance and sin. Help them to overcome every temptation through thy grace. Fill them with the Spirit of Christ that they may be pure and unselfish, and loyal to thee; and bring them at last into the glory of the eternal home; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen. [48]

BOOK OF CHURCH SERVICES

NATIONAL HOLIDAYS

ALMIGHTY GOD, who didst lead our fathers to these shores that they might lay here the foundations of civil and religious liberty, bless to us the glorious heritage of faith and freedom which we have received from them. Preserve thou the nation

which was established by their prayers, their heroic deeds, and their sacrifices. Help us to be true to the great ideals for which they stood, and may our country ever be the home of justice, liberty, and true brotherhood. Defend it against every peril, and may it be increasingly a blessing to all the world. Amen. [48]

BOOK OF CHURCH SERVICES

ALMIGHTY GOD, grant unto this land a new birth of freedom, and may the spirit of our forefathers come anew into our lives in this present time. May we pledge, as did they in their heroic hour, our lives and all that we possess for the fulfilment of the ideal of human freedom. Make strong our hearts and patient our spirits. May thy power be our courage and may the light of thy countenance give unto us strength in our inner spirits, that we may not falter in the times which test us to the uttermost. May thy will be accomplished in the earth, may righteousness be victorious, and all men learn to know themselves as brothers and sons of one Heavenly Father. Amen. [113]

HENRY HALLAM SAUNDERSON

ALMIGHTY GOD, who in thy Providence hast made us citizens of a land great in privilege and great in opportunity, we give thee thanks for the country which we love, and which we are called in our generation to serve. We thank thee for the ideals of faith and freedom which brought our fathers to these shores: for those who through the years have striven to maintain those ideals untarnished and that faith undishonoured: for the first President and those who with him fashioned our government: for all who in commonwealth and state, in school and church, in places of business and in homes have sought to serve and preserve the nation's soul, and to make us as a nation an instrument of thy service. Make us today true to the best in our past, eager for a still larger future, and above all loyal to thee.

We thank thee, O God, for the great nation from whom we have inherited our institutions, and our language, our ideals of liberty, and our faith. We thank thee for the opportunities facing these two nations today to help each other, and to stand

together for peace and righteousness. Bind us together with a new appreciation of our common heritage. Foster every influence which makes for better understanding and sympathetic dealing. Defeat every effort to keep alive the bitter memories of past differences, and silence every voice that would make for ill will or misunderstanding in our time among those who speak the English tongue. Grant that as separate nations we may be one in heart, and one in purpose to serve mankind.

God of Peace, whom thy people crucify afresh when forsaking ways of reason they resort to war, speed the day when all wars shall cease, and men the world over shall dwell in mutual understanding and concord. Make us as earnest and as valiant in the cause of peace as our fathers have been in the conflicts of their times. Save us from the faithlessness of believing that as things have been so they must ever be, and from the timidity of fearing to take the risks of peace by making great ventures of confidence in other nations. Give us the courage which our times demand, that we may build a world which will be safe for our children and for our children's children, in which all men shall bow before the Prince of Peace. Amen. [50]

M. P. N.

O Thou who settest the solitary in families, and gatherest the nations together, we praise thee for the land of our hearts' devotion. We bless thee for the boundless treasures hidden within our borders and entrusted to our people for use; for the Providence which has led our people through the years; for our memories of pioneers and fearless leaders who transformed the wilderness into a nation and won for us our free institutions; for the responsibilities and opportunities of our own new day, and for the privileges that are ours to serve the needs and necessities of the world. Guard us from all selfish purposes as we enter upon our great heritage. Deliver us from every influence that would break down reverence for law and corrupt our sense of corporate responsibility. Keep alive among us a compelling faith in the things of the spirit, a love for all that makes for

beauty and for truth, a devotion to thy ways of righteousness and friendliness and peace. Uphold thy servant, our President, and all others whom the people have entrusted with power, that, instructed by thy spirit, they may govern this nation according to the laws of that kingdom which has no end. Amen. [50]

M. P. N.

LABOUR DAY

We beseech thee, O Lord, that thou wilt bring all mankind into the glorious liberty of the children of God, and set the whole creation free from the bondage of vanity and corruption. Deliver all who are enslaved, over-worked, or burdened; protect all whose labour brings them into danger or leads them into temptation; and comfort those whose toil is unpleasant, monotonous, or without joy. Remember all who are out of work, ill paid, or in want; and have mercy upon those who are driven to rebellion, sullenness or despair. Give repentance to those who are careless of the conditions under which others live, unconcerned at the injustices of our social order, and who, while they live delicately, contemn the poor and forget God. Stir up true champions of the poor, and guide the aspirations of labour with just and worthy ideals. Bring near the day when men shall toil, not for their own gain, but for the common good; all commerce shall be pure, all labour prayer, all work worship, and men shall rejoice in the things that their hands have made. Hasten the coming of thy kingdom and its righteousness; put an end to international and industrial strife; and establish true fellowship among men. Amen. [41] *Adapted*

William E. Orchard

ALL SAINTS' DAY

O God, the Father everlasting, whom the glorious hosts of heaven obey, and in whose presence patriarchs, prophets, apostles, martyrs, with all the spirits of the just made perfect, continually do live; fix the eye of our faith, we beseech thee, with clear and full vision, on the great cloud of witnesses wherewith

we are thus compassed about, that laying aside every weight, and the sin that doth so easily beset us, we may run with patience the race that is set before us, and obtain at last the crown of everlasting life; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen. [13]

BOOK OF COMMON ORDER

ALMIGHTY AND EVERLASTING GOD, before whom stand the spirits of the living and the dead, Light of lights, Fountain of wisdom and goodness, who livest in all pure and humble and gracious souls; for all who have witnessed a good confession for thy glory and the welfare of the world; patriarchs, prophets, and apostles; the wise of every land and nation, and all teachers of mankind, we praise thee, O God, and bless thy Name. For the martyrs of our holy faith; the faithful witnesses to Christ of whom the world was not worthy; and for all who have resisted falsehood and wrong unto suffering or death; for all who have laboured and suffered for freedom, good government, just laws, and the sanctity of the home; and for all who have given their lives for their country; for all who have sought to bless men by their service and life, and to lighten the dark places of the earth; for those who have been tender and true and brave in all times and places; and for all who have been one with thee in the communion of Christ's Spirit and in the strength of his love; for the dear friends and kindred ministering in the spiritual world; whose faces we see no more, but whose love is with us for ever; for the teachers and companions of our childhood and youth; and the members of our household of faith who worship thee now in heaven; for the grace which was given to all these; and for the trust and hopes in which they lived and died, we praise thee, O God, and bless thy Name. And that we may hold them in continual remembrance, that the sanctity of their wisdom and goodness may rest upon our earthly days, and that we may prepare ourselves to follow them in their upward way, we beseech thee to hear us, O God, that we may ever think of them as with thee, and be sure that where they are, there we may be also. [19] *Adapted*

THE KINGDOM, THE POWER AND THE GLORY

O God, who hast taught us that all who draw near to thee in the true faith of Christ are come already to the heavenly city, to the spirits of just men made perfect, and to Jesus the Mediator of the new covenant, we thank thee for the Communion of Saints. Give us grace to live in the remembrance of those who served thee on earth, and are now gathered together in the eternal home; and prepare us for being united to that glorious company when our earthly task is done; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen. [114]

PRAYERS FOR THE CHRISTIAN HOME

Before thee, O Heavenly Father, we remember those who have passed from our midst into the fuller light of thy eternal Presence. We thank thee for their loyalty to duty and their power of self-surrender, and for the discipline by which thou hast made them fit in a short time for the higher service in thy kingdom. May we have the assurance of their continued fellowship in thee, and realize that there is no separation between those that love, even though converse and communion be no longer possible according to the flesh. Hear, O God our Father, the prayers that follow our beloved ones upon their unseen way, and grant that both we and they, in every condition thy wisdom ordains, may grow and continue in the knowledge of thee which alone is eternal life. Amen. [15]

JOHN HUNTER

ELECTION DAY

O Almighty Lord and Heavenly Father, we beseech thee to guide and govern the minds of thy people in wisdom, sincerity, and judgment; that being called upon to elect just legislators and faithful councillors, we may understand both the sacredness of the trust which thy providence commits to each of us, and also the greatness of the interests which thereon depend. To thee, O Lord, we commend this whole land for which thou hast done so great things of old. Abolish all mean desire and unworthy motive; let none be deceived through wilfulness

or by vain words; cleanse all thoughts, and uplift all minds; enable us to consider all things diligently, and in all singleness of heart to fulfill thy will; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen. [5]

BOOK OF COMMON WORSHIP

ALMIGHTY GOD, who dost hold us to account for the use of all our powers and privileges; guide, we pray thee, the people of these United States in the election of their rulers and representatives; that by wise legislation and faithful administration the rights of all may be protected, and our nation be enabled to fulfill thy purposes, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen. [4]

BOOK OF OFFICES AND PRAYERS

AFTER ELECTION

GOD of all power and might, the Maker and Ruler of men; we commend our nation to the guidance of thy wisdom, to the keeping of thy love. May the rulers whom thy people choose to serve them, serve thee in honesty of purpose and uprightness of life. May they never forget their answerableness to the people whom they serve and to that people's God. Deliver them from the love of power and from motives of personal gain; from considerations of men or money in place of the demands of truth and justice; and from losing patriotism in partisanship. Bless them in their ministry with an ever larger vision of the truth, an ever deeper sense of the demands of righteousness; that through their faithfulness the life of our people may be guided by wise policies, and lifted to higher ideals and nobler achievements; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen. [39]

PRAYERS FOR THE CHRISTIAN YEAR

ARMISTICE DAY

O GOD OUR FATHER, on this day of remembrance, look upon the unrest of the world and be pleased to complete the work of thy healing hand. Send peace upon the earth, a deeper and more

lasting peace than the world has ever known. Draw all men unto thyself, and to one another by the bands of love. Grant understanding to the nations with an increase of sympathy and mutual good will, that they may be united in a sacred brotherhood wherein justice, mercy and faith, truth and freedom may flourish, so that the sacrifice of those who died may not have been made in vain, for the sake of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen. [91]

AUTHOR UNKNOWN

O GOD OF PEACE, whom in our passions we have so often forgotten, sanctify to us every memory of the years when the din of arms resounded through all the earth, and nations meant to be brothers were engaged in fratricidal strife. Accept our gratitude for the day when the guns ceased, and an unwonted silence fell upon a bleeding earth. Let no forgetfulness or dullness of conscience rob us of the meaning of those fearful years. Strengthen every force in human hearts that would make forever impossible their repetition. Build peace into our minds, into our ways of commerce and industry, into governments and schools, into the dreams and imaginations of aspiring people, until swords are beaten into ploughshares and the nations learn war no more. Amen. [50]

M. P. N.

AND as we bless thy holy name for those thy servants departed this life in thy faith and love, so we beseech thee to give to us who remain grace to follow their good example, and to carry on the work which they began. Grant, O Lord, we pray thee, that the offering of their lives may not have been made in vain; that we and all thy people may hear the call to nobler living which sounds in our ears from the graves of those who have died that we might live; that we may dedicate our lives anew to the work of bringing in thy kingdom upon earth: that so out of these years of sin and misery and loss, there may arise a better nation and a better world; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen. [130]

JESSE HALSEY

THANKSGIVING DAY

MOST GRACIOUS GOD, by whose appointment the seasons come and go, and who makest the fruits of the earth to minister to the needs of men, we offer thee our thanksgivings that thou hast brought us through the circuit of another year, and that according to thy promise, seedtime and harvest have not failed. We thank thee that thou hast prospered the husbandman in his toil, and hast crowned the year with thy goodness. We praise thee, the giver of all good gifts, for the plentiful harvests to feed the hungry and minister to our comfort. At the remembrance of thy bounty we offer unto thee the sacrifices of our thanksgiving, and pray that thou wilt feed our souls with the Bread of Life. Amen. [48]

BOOK OF CHURCH SERVICES

ALMIGHTY GOD, our Heavenly Father, God of our fathers and our God, we give thee most humble and hearty thanks for thy servants who came across wintry seas at peril of life and fortune to establish upon these shores an emancipated church and a godly commonwealth. We thank thee for their courage and perseverance, their fidelity to truth and justice, their devotion to the purity of the Church of Christ and the coming of the Kingdom of God. And we pray that we who have entered into the heritage of their heroism and self-sacrifice may so honour their memory and so preserve and further their high purposes that the church and nation which they founded may stand in all coming years for truth and righteousness and peace, and may ever seek the formation of that kingdom for which they lived and died; through Jesus Christ their Lord and ours. Amen. [48]

BOOK OF CHURCH SERVICES

MOST HIGH AND MIGHTY RULER OF THE UNIVERSE, by whom our nation hath been established in freedom and preserved in union; in this feast of harvest we thank thee for the fruits of the earth. We thank thee also for thy favour shown unto our fathers, and thy faithfulness continued unto their children; for the rich land given us for an inheritance, and the great power

entrusted to the people; for the fidelity of men set in authority, and the peace maintained by righteous laws; for protection from outward dangers, and deliverance from inward strife; for an honourable place among the nations, and the opportunity of increasing service to the world. Keep thou the commonwealth beneath thy care, and guide the State according to thy will: and thine shall be the glory and the praise and the thanksgiving, from generation to generation. Amen. [3]

THE BOOK OF COMMON WORSHIP

O GOD, Giver of all good, and Fountain of all mercies, in whom are all the springs of our life; all glory, thanks and praise be unto thee for thine unfailing goodness; for thy faithfulness which is from one generation to another; for thy mercies which are new every morning, fresh every moment, and more than we can number. We thank thee for seedtime and harvest, and summer and winter, and nights and days throughout the year; for food and clothing, and shelter; for health and reason; for childhood and age, youth and manhood; for thy fatherly hand ever upon us in sickness and in health, in joy and in sorrow, in life and in death; for friends, kindred, and benefactors; for home and country; for thy church and for thy gospel.

Yea, Lord, because there is nothing for which we may not bless and thank thee, therefore do we pay our vows now in the presence of all thy people, humbly beseeching thee to accept this our service, which we offer in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen. [13]

BOOK OF COMMON ORDER

ADVENT

O GOD, who didst prepare of old the minds and hearts of men for the coming of thy Son, and whose Spirit ever worketh to illumine our darkened lives with the light of his gospel; prepare now our minds and hearts, we beseech thee, that Christ may dwell within us, and ever reign in our thoughts and affections as the King of Love, and the very Prince of Peace. Grant this, we pray thee, for his sake. Amen. [16]

SERVICE BOOK AND ORDINAL OF THE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF SOUTH AFRICA

ALMIGHTY AND EVERLASTING GOD, who art the Brightness of faithful souls and the Desire of all nations; so fill the world with thy glory and show thyself by the radiance of thy light that all the peoples of the earth may be subject unto thee; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen. [39]

PRAYERS FOR THE CHRISTIAN YEAR. *Adapted from Gregorian Sacramentary*

ALMIGHTY AND ETERNAL GOD, whose light doth shine in mortal darkness; reveal unto us thy presence in our souls, and thy judgment of all our actions, thoughts, and words. Manifest thyself to us in the movements of this present time. Open our eyes to thy glory all around us. Thou art ever coming to thy children, coming in manifold ways; by cherishing our serious and reverent spirit may we prepare ourselves to meet our God, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen. [39]

PRAYERS FOR THE CHRISTIAN YEAR

O HEAVENLY FATHER, whose light and love search the depth of men's hearts, prepare us, we pray thee, for thy coming. Fill our souls with humility, as we remember before thee the things we ought not to have done, and the good things left undone, and as we come to thee for forgiveness. Purify our thoughts, strengthen our wills, kindle again in us the spirit of devotion; and above all, lift us into thy very presence, that, consecrated anew to thy service, we may, with gladness and serenity, follow in the footsteps of him who came not to be ministered unto but to minister, thy Son, our Saviour, Jesus Christ. Amen. [39]

PRAYERS FOR THE CHRISTIAN YEAR

O GOD, for the day of whose power the world has watched and waited through the years, we thank thee for all prophetic spirits who have seen the promise of the better day, and by faith have served it. We thank thee for stout-hearted men and women who in days of discouragement have still believed in thy goodness and in thy desire to lead thy people from darkness into light. We thank thee for all who when the night was dark about them have watched for the morning, and

trusted in the coming dawn. We thank thee for men of faith who in the dim centuries dared believe in the coming of One who should bear men's burdens, and redeem them from their sins, and reveal to them the light of thy spirit. For their vision of a Redeemer, and for thy response to their desires, we give thee thanks, and pray for like faith in this our day.

God of Truth and Love, we acknowledge before thee our deep need of a new birth of Christ's spirit in our midst. We confess our own share in the selfishness which rules our human life; in the prejudices and suspicions which divide men; in the love of unworthy things which cheapens life; in the timidity which holds back good causes; and in the indifference which suffers evil to go unchecked. We confess our broken vows of loyalty to Christ; our obedience to the powers of evil which he hates; our want of faith in the way of love along which he leads. Send his spirit with a new appeal to our hearts this day. May we hear again his gracious invitation to follow him. Over the tumult of our world may his voice ring clear and true, speaking the word of peace and reconciliation with thee, his Father and ours. [50]

M. P. N.

O God of Hope, who waitest through the centuries for a people prepared to receive the gift of thy spirit, we beseech thee to draw us to thyself, and to fit us for thy service. By thy mighty power, free us from the sins which deaden conscience and keep us low. By thy providence guide us towards paths of usefulness and lead us in thy way. By the quickening of thy spirit, lift our thoughts towards things true and lovely and of good report, and grant us visions of thy kingdom of good will upon the earth. By the gracious face of Jesus, teach us the beauty of holiness and satisfy us with the life which is life indeed.

O God, for whose spirit our world hungers and thirsts, bless us with peace and righteousness the world over as the season of good will comes upon us. Let thy spirit rule among the nations, that concord and mutual service may be established, and the mind of Christ bind people with people, and race with race in

brotherhood. Support all those at this season who think and plan to give happiness to others, and give them the deepest happiness in their tasks. Sustain all those who must bear added burdens to provide cheer for others. Help us all to be mindful of them, and to add no unnecessary task to their portion. Bring the light of thy spirit into every home, that affections may be rekindled and loyalties be renewed in the gladness of the time. Send new life into thy church, that there may be a new spirit of devotion to Christ and his Kingdom. Free us from all concerns for the things that matter little, and keep us true to the things that matter much—justice and mercy and faith.

Most Merciful God, abundantly bless those in whose hearts there is little room for joy because sorrow has come close to them. May the Christ who has been the sharer of their joys and their comrade in toil now come to them as the Great Comforter, and in the knowledge of his sympathy and love may they find the peace that knows no end. Amen. [50]

M. P. N.

CHRISTMAS

O God, to whom glory is sung in the highest, while on earth peace is proclaimed to men of good will; grant that good will to us thy servants, cleanse us from all our sins, and give perpetual peace to us and to all people; through thy mercy, O God, who art blessed, and dost govern all things, world without end. Amen. [51]

Mozarabic Sacramentary. *Altered by W. E. Orchard*

O Almighty God, who by the birth of thy holy Child Jesus hast given us a great Light to dawn upon our darkness, grant, we pray thee, that in his light we may see light to the end of our days; and bestow upon us, we beseech thee, that most excellent Christmas gift of charity to all men, that so, the likeness of thy Son may be formed in us, and that we may have the ever-brightening hope of everlasting life; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen. [64]

William Angus Knight

O FATHER, who hast declared thy love to men by the birth of the Holy Child at Bethlehem; help us to welcome him with gladness and to make room for him in our common days; so that we may live at peace with one another and in good will with all thy family; through the same thy Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen. [39]

PRAYERS FOR THE CHRISTIAN YEAR

O GOD OUR FATHER, who didst send forth thy Son to be King of Kings and Prince of peace; grant that all the kingdoms of this world may become the Kingdom of Christ, and learn of him the way of peace. Send forth among all men the spirit of good-will and reconciliation. Let those who are offended forgive, and those who have offended repent, so that all thy children may live together as one family, praising thee and blessing thee for the great redemption which thou hast wrought for us, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen. [41]

AUTHOR UNKNOWN

ALMIGHTY GOD, who hast revealed the glory of thy love in the face of Jesus Christ, and hast called us by him to live with thee as children; let the Day-spring from on high visit us, and the Day-star arise in our hearts. May the Spirit of Jesus be born in us anew, teaching our love to remember, our anger to forgive, our unkindness to forget; that something of his beauty may be upon us, and that his grace may be shed abroad in our hearts. Make us compassionate one towards another, merciful, tender-hearted, forgiving one another; even as thou, O God, art compassionate towards us, forgiving iniquity, transgression, and sin; for the sake of thy dear Son, our Saviour. Amen. [16]

SERVICE BOOK AND ORDINAL OF THE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF SOUTH AFRICA

OUR HEAVENLY FATHER, who hast mercifully and patiently led us through the busy year, giving us more than we have deserved or even desired, give us at this Christmas time some share in the grace of Jesus Christ. Let the gracious spirit of Jesus, the spirit of the little child, as it knocks today at the hearts of men, enter our lives and bless them; that duty may

become touched with beauty, and justice be forgotten in love. At other times we ask that we may do our tasks with consecration and patience; today we ask for more: that obligation may be changed to opportunity, and duty done with joy. At other times we ask that we may walk uprightly: today we pray for grace to bow ourselves to others' needs. Let our hearts hear the cry of the needy, and our hearts feel the love of the unlovely. Give our hands strength, not to do great things, but to do small things graciously. Let our gifts today be not a sacrifice but a privilege. Let us accept kindness with humility. Heal the wounds of misunderstanding, jealousy, or regret, that scar our hearts; and let the gentler air of the Christmas spirit touch our lives, as though the cold of winter were touched by the kindlier breath of spring. As the old year ends, and the new year begins, grant us peace with the world, and peace in our own hearts, that those we love, and those whom we may help, may have sweet joy and rest; and the grace of Jesus Christ be in us all. [40]

FRANCIS G. PEABODY

O GOD, who centuries ago blessed our earth with a vision of thy love in the form of a little child; who sent to rebuke earth's selfishness a humble Man to go about doing good and to speak the words of life; who revealed thyself, the Conqueror of evil, in one the weapons of whose warfare were deeds of kindliness and mercy—graciously grant us the Christmas power as we remember him. Fill our hearts with the gladness of his coming. Teach us the enduring joy of his service. Lead us into the Christmas peace which passeth understanding, the peace of Christ. Amen. [50]

M. P. N.

GOD OF LOVE, in whose Providence thy world once echoed with the heavenly songs of "Peace on earth, good will to men," we beseech thee once more to gladden thy people with the light which centuries ago shone round about the hills of Bethlehem. Renew in us the Christmas faith, that remembering how thou gavest us thy Son, we may dare to believe that with him thou

wilt freely give us all those things for which he makes us long—brotherhood and righteousness and mercy. Fill our hearts with his self-giving spirit, that no selfishness may dwell therein, and no folly blind us to the glory of the life which thou desirest for us. Shed abroad throughout the earth his friendliness, until ancient animosities are forgotten, and lingering prejudices disappear, and no want goes unrelieved, and all mankind bows before the Prince of Peace. Visit with his sympathy all who from the shadows of loneliness and sorrow look out upon rejoicing in which they find no share, and grant to them the Christmas peace which passeth knowledge. Grant the power of his spirit to all who beneath the guise of mirth do battle with temptations which daily press them hard, and make them more than conquerors through him who strengtheneth them. As once more we take upon our lips the Christmas songs and Christmas truth, let thy Word be made flesh again in human life, and Love Incarnate walk the ways of men. Be to our waiting earth once more Emmanuel—God with us—revealed in Jesus Christ. Amen. [50]

M. P. N.

CLOSE OF YEAR

Almighty and Most Merciful Father, who hast given us grace in times past, and hast mercifully brought us to see the end of another year, grant that we may continue to grow in grace and in the knowledge of thy dear Son. Lead us forward by thy Spirit from strength to strength, that we may more perfectly serve thee. Stir up the gift that is in us. Increase our faith as thou dost increase our years, and the longer we are suffered to abide on earth, the better may our service be, the more willing our obedience, the more consistent our daily lives, the more complete our devotion to thee. Grant this our prayer, O gracious Father, which we offer in the name of Jesus Christ thy Son, our Lord. Amen. [115] *Adapted*

Tracts for Christian Seasons

As we keep holy time, O Lord of our life, under the deepening shadows of the closing year, may we thank thee for all that it hath brought to us of mercy and truth, for the lights that have ruled our day and cheered our night, for thy Being and our natures, for thy Providence and our faith, for thy dear Son and the grace by which we are his disciples, for the law which doth uphold and the love which doth comfort our world. Make this passing time sacred to us for the precious thoughts of thee which it doth awaken in our hearts. Bless all to whom this has been a year of bereavement, and fulfil for them thy word, that at evening-time there shall be light. Help us all to redeem the time and to devote ourselves more entirely to thy high and blessed service. [116] *Abridged*

RUFUS ELLIS

ALMIGHTY FATHER, as we keep holy time under the deepening shadows of the closing year; we thank thee for all that it hath brought to us of mercy and truth. Receive our sorrow for our sins, and in thine infinite mercy blot them out of the book of thy remembrance. Let not the experiences of our past days be lost upon us. Fix in our minds every lesson of faith and duty which thou hast been teaching us. Take from our hearts every veil that would hide from us the shining of the heavenly light. Grant unto us, before the record of this year has been finished and sealed, a fresh consecration, a very deep and honest desire to live according to thy will, as it has been made known to us in Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen. [15]

JOHN HUNTER

PRAYERS FOR SPECIAL SERVICES

PRAYERS FOR SPECIAL SERVICES

THE ORDINATION OF A MINISTER

ALMIGHTY GOD AND EVERLASTING FATHER, who dost govern all things in heaven and earth by thy wisdom, and hast from the beginning ordained for thy Church the ministry of reconciliation, giving some apostles, and some prophets, and some evangelists, and some pastors and teachers, for the perfecting of the saints, for the work of the ministry, and for the edifying of the body of Christ; look in mercy, we beseech thee, on this thy servant, upon whom we lay our hands in thy name [*here the presiding minister and the other ministers shall lay their hands upon the head of the candidate*], and whom we thus ordain and set apart to the holy office of the ministry. Bestow upon him the grace of thy Holy Spirit, confirming in heaven what we do in thy church on earth, and owning him as a true minister of the gospel of thy Son. Like his Master, may he ever strive to sanctify himself, that others may be sanctified through the truth. Let the same mind be in him which was also in Christ Jesus, that he may nourish and quicken thy people in faith, increase his own faith in thee, our God. Through abiding in the fellowship of thy Son, may his speech be full of sincerity and life. In his words and works show forth the power of the gospel, to the saving of men and the glory of thy name. Grant this, O Heavenly Father, for the sake of thy dear Son Jesus Christ. Amen. [3]

THE BOOK OF COMMON WORSHIP

THE INSTALLATION OF A PASTOR

ALMIGHTY GOD AND EVERLASTING FATHER, who dost govern all things in heaven and earth by thy wisdom, and hast from

the beginning ordained for thy church the ministry of reconciliation; we thank thee for thy goodness to us this day in establishing this pastorate; and we beseech thee to continue thy lovingkindness to this congregation, and to thy servant who has now been set over them in holy things. Bless him in full measure with the gifts of thy Spirit, that he may truly and effectively preach the gospel. So endue him with purity of life that he may be an example to this flock; and grant that in all things he may faithfully serve thee, in the upbuilding of thy people in holiness, and in the leadership of thy church for the accomplishment of thy purpose of salvation.

O Lord God, the Sanctifier of the faithful, visit, we pray thee, this congregation with thy love and favour; prepare their hearts to receive thy Word; enlighten their minds more and more with the light of the everlasting gospel; arouse them to works that shall establish among men righteousness and love and truth, according to thy holy will; and of thy great mercy keep them in the unity of the spirit and in the bonds of love; through Jesus Christ our Lord; whom, with thee and the Holy Spirit, we worship and glorify as one God, world without end. Amen. [3]

THE BOOK OF COMMON WORSHIP

THE ORDINATION OF ELDERS OR OTHER CHURCH OFFICERS

SET apart, we beseech thee, O Lord, these thy servants to the work whereunto thou hast called them by the voice of this people. Endue them plenteously with heavenly wisdom. Grant them thy grace, that they may be good men, full of the Holy Spirit and of faith, ruling in the fear of God. Give them that favour and influence with the people which come from following Christ. So fill them with his spirit that they may lead this congregation in his service. Make them faithful unto death, and when the Chief Shepherd shall appear, may they receive a crown of glory that fadeth not away. [3]

THE BOOK OF COMMON WORSHIP

THE ORDINATION OF DEACONS

O LORD JESUS, who didst come not to be ministered unto but to minister, who for our sakes became poor, that we through thy poverty might be rich, who didst love the church, and give thyself up for it; set apart and consecrate these thy servants to the office of deacon. Give them thine own spirit of compassion for human needs. Inspire them with thine own devotion to the church. Guide and sustain them in all their service until their work on earth is done; and bestow upon them the great rewards of thy heavenly kingdom. Amen. [3]

THE BOOK OF COMMON WORSHIP

THE LAYING OF A CORNER-STONE OF A CHURCH

ALMIGHTY GOD, the Rock of Ages, on thee we build all our hopes for this life and that which is to come. Other foundation we would not seek to lay than that is laid, which is Jesus Christ; and we are to build upon this Corner-stone a holy temple to the living God. Accept the act by which we lay this corner-stone. Bless those whose offerings enable us to build this house of worship. Graciously guard and direct those who labour in erecting it, shielding them from accident and peril. May the walls of this building rise in security and in beauty; and may the hearts of these thy people be fitly joined together into a living temple, builded upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Jesus Christ being the chief corner-stone. Amen. [5]

BOOK OF COMMON WORSHIP

THE DEDICATION OF A CHURCH

ALMIGHTY GOD, OUR HEAVENLY FATHER, whom the heaven of heavens cannot contain, much less this house which we have built; yet who delightest in the assembling of thy people in the sanctuary, and hast promised to bless them there; look with thy loving favour upon us this day, and accept as thine own

this temple of worship which thy children would consecrate to thy service. Cause thy face to shine upon us, and make this place to all who gather here the very house of God and the gate of heaven; through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen. [5]

BOOK OF COMMON WORSHIP

THE ANNIVERSARY OF A CHURCH

ETERNAL GOD, our dwelling place in all generations, under whose guidance our fathers walked, by whom they were strengthened and sustained, and in whom they found the life eternal, we pray that the spirit which kindled their faith may descend upon us this day. We thank thee for every memory which this day revives, and for the cloud of witnesses who make this day sacred for us, and bid us lay aside our sins, looking to him who is the Author and Finisher of faith. Deepen within us the sense of gratitude for sacrifices made for us by those who have gone the way of life before us, and found thy house a place of refreshment and strength. Give us to see by faith the needs of those who shall come after us, and to bequeath to them, as a rich heritage of the spirit, our witness in life and deed to the unsearchable riches of the life with thee. Lead us into a deeper experience of that life, that we may become forerunners of the glorious day when our world shall be the kingdom of our Lord and of his Christ. Amen. [50]

M.P.N.

A SERVICE OF MUSIC

O GOD, Creator of the fair world which greets our eyes and of the still fairer world of the spirit which no man hath ever seen, but into which thou leadest the spirits of men, we bless thee for the gift of music. We thank thee that through the power of song thou thyself comest to fling wide the doors of that world unseen, where thou art. We praise thee that in that sacred presence we know that though the things we see are temporal, the things we do not see—beauty and truth and

goodness—are eternal. We give thee thanks that there we feel the tides of life drawing us towards the life over which time has no power; that there we learn to hate everything within us that is not fair, and long to give ourselves to make thy world the dwelling place of light.

O thou who touchest earth in men who become revealers of thine unseen beauty, we thank thee for all artists to whom has been entrusted the gift of gifts. We thank thee for those of other days who still live in their works which follow them, and still speak courage and peace to men's hearts through songs which cannot die. We thank thee for all creative spirits of our own time, and for all interpreters of music born in the souls of others. We remember with thanksgiving the multitude of men and women who have seen visions of a nobler life under the spell of music, who have found the closed doors of their spirits unlocked at the touch of song, and been moved to worship as their hearts have been lifted up to praise thee. Grant that praising thee, we may all love thee, and loving thee may serve thee evermore in the glad company of the followers of Jesus Christ. Amen. [50]

M. P. N.

PRAYERS FOR THE FUNERAL SERVICE

PRAYERS FOR THE FUNERAL SERVICE

ADDRESS TO THE DEITY

FATHER of mercies, and God of all comfort—[117]

O GOD, who dost not willingly afflict nor grieve the children of men—[118]

ALMIGHTY GOD, with whom do live the spirits of those who depart hence, and who hast knit all thy saints in one communion unto life eternal—[15]

O THOU from whom we have come forth, and unto whom all souls return—[15]

ALMIGHTY FATHER, the Source from which we come, the End to which we travel, and the Light and Strength of our pilgrimage—[15]

O THOU from whom we come, to whom we go, the Beginning and the End of our lives—[15]

ALMIGHTY GOD, in whose hands are our times, and the souls of all thy children—[15]

ALMIGHTY GOD, Lord of life and death, whose are all our ways—[15]

ALMIGHTY GOD, Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, whom thou hast made unto us Way and Truth, Resurrection and Life—[15]

ETERNAL AND UNCHANGEABLE GOD, in whom alone we find rest for our weariness and comfort for our sorrow, and from whom alone cometh true joy—[4]

ALMIGHTY GOD, who in the time of our shadow and darkness canst be our only true and lasting light—[4]

ALMIGHTY GOD, who layest on us no greater burden than thy grace can enable us to bear—[4]

O GOD of all the sons of men, whose purposes are from everlasting to everlasting, and in whose hands are the issues of life and death—[20]

O GOD of light eternal—[32]

O ALMIGHTY GOD, the God of the spirits of all flesh—[27]

SPIRIT of all grace and benediction, Father of Jesus Christ and our Father, Creator of these dying bodies, Life and Light of these undying souls—[2]

MOST MERCIFUL GOD, the consolation of the sorrowful and the support of the weary—[3]

LORD of all spirits in all worlds—[35]

PRAYERS

OUR FATHER IN HEAVEN, whose pity is infinite and whose will is sovereign, be pleased to look down upon our sorrow, and for the sake of thy dear Son, enable us so to hear thy holy word that through patience and comfort of the Scriptures we may have hope, and grant us the consolation of thy Holy Spirit, that we, humbly acknowledging our many sins, may nevertheless hold fast the assurance of thy mercy and the blessed hope of everlasting life, through him who died and rose again and ever liveth with thee, even Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen. [129]

DIRECTORY OF WORSHIP, PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF ENGLAND

OUR HEAVENLY FATHER, who art waiting to receive and answer each sincere and simple prayer, we turn to thee in our great need, asking for light in our darkness and deliverance from our doubts and fears. Thou sendest forth thy breath, and we are created; thou takest away our life, we die and return to the dust. Whether we live, then, or die, we are in thy compas-

sionate and loving care; and the shadow that darkens our path is but the close approaching, over-brooding shadow of thy nearer presence.

Here, then, we commit to thy unfailing love the beloved soul now departed. We thank thee for the gracious memories which gather about this life, for kindly deeds and thoughts, for the love freely given and the love modestly received, for the patient bearing of the heavy cross of solitude and pain, and now at last for quiet release from the burden of the flesh and entrance into the peace reserved for those who love thee. The Lord gave, and the Lord hath taken away; blessed be the name of the Lord. Sanctify this sorrow to those who most deeply mourn, that they may be comforted. Sustain them in their bereavement, and confirm their faith by tranquillizing memories and confident hopes; that the great words may be spoken again, Let not your hearts be troubled; My peace I leave with you; I go to prepare a place for you.

And to us all, as we gather here in a common sorrow, speak thy solemn messages of life and death. The more we perceive that the things which are seen are temporal, so much the surer make us that the things which are not seen are eternal. Teach us to live as those who are prepared to die; and when thy summons comes, soon or late, teach us to die as those who are prepared to live; that living or dying we may be with thee, and that nothing henceforward, either in life or in death, shall be able to separate us from thy love which is in Christ Jesus our Lord. Amen. [40]

FRANCIS G. PEABODY

O GOD OUR FATHER, from whom we come, unto whom we return, and in whom, while we tarry here, we live and move and have our being; we praise thee for thy good gifts of life; for its wonder and mystery; its interests and joys; its friendships and fellowships. We thank thee for the ties that bind us one to another. We bless thee for thy loving and patient dealings with us, whereby thou dost ever teach us thy truth and thy way, by the varied experiences through which we pass; for the

meanings that lie hidden even in the very heart of sorrow, pain, disappointment, loss, and grief; and for thy guiding hand along the way of our pilgrimage.

We give thanks to thee for this, thy child, recalling all in him that made others love him. We bless thee for all good and gracious influence in his home and training, for all that ministered to his best life. We thank thee for all goodness and truth that has passed from his life into the lives of others, and has made the world richer for his presence. [*Here may be made mention of characteristics or service.*]

We bless thy name for the revelation of thyself and of thy love in our Lord Jesus Christ, and for the hope set before us in the gospel. We thank thee that deep in the human heart is an unquenchable trust that life does not end with death; that the Father, who has made us, will not leave us in the dust, but will care for us beyond the bounds of vision, even as he has cared for us in this earthly life. We praise thy name that this our hope has been so wondrously confirmed in the life and words and resurrection of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ.

Grant us, we beseech thee, the comfort of thine assured presence, and the quiet ministries of thy Holy Spirit. Renew within us the great gifts of faith, patience, and enduring love. Help us to walk amid the things of this world with eyes open to the beauty and glory of the eternal; that so, among the sundry and manifold changes of this life, our hearts may there be fixed where true joys are to be found; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen. [3]

WILLIAM P. MERRILL

O GOD OF PEACE, who hast taught us that in returning and rest we shall be saved, in quietness and confidence shall be our strength; by the might of thy Spirit lift us, we pray thee, to thy presence, where we may be still and know that thou art God; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen. [27]

THE BOOK OF COMMON PRAYER

O LORD, support us all the day long of our troublous life, until the shadows lengthen and the evening comes, and the busy

world is hushed, and the fever of life is over, and our work is done. Then in thy mercy grant us a safe lodging and a holy rest, and peace at the last; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen. [124]

JOHN HENRY NEWMAN

THANKSGIVING FOR IMMORTALITY

MAY the Lord be our light, and in the abundance of his grace may we pray our prayers. All our deep springs are in thee. May we always feel thee near, and know thee to be good, and that thy mercies are from everlasting to everlasting. Deepen in us the life everlasting. Enrich us with heavenly treasures, and may we be strong and brave to finish the work which is given us to do.

Our Father, unto thee, in the light of our Saviour's blessed life we would lift up our souls. We thank thee for Christ our Lord, for his word and work. We thank thee for that true light shining in our world with still increasing brightness. We thank thee for all who have walked, and especially for those near to us and dear, in whose lives we have seen this excellent glory and beauty. May we know that in the body and out of the body they are with thee, and that when these earthly days come to an end, it is not that our service of thee and of one another may cease, but that it may begin anew. Make us glad in all who have faithfully lived; make us glad in all who have peacefully died. Lift us into light and love, and give us at last our portion with those who have trusted in thee, and sought, in small things as in great, in things temporal and things eternal, to do thy holy will. [120] *Abridged*

RUFUS ELLIS

O LORD OF LIFE, who dwellest in eternity, and who hast planted in our hearts the faith and hope which look beyond our mortal life to another, even a heavenly country, we give thanks to thee this day for the bright shining of the light of

immortality in Jesus Christ. As he has showed us the blessedness of heaven on earth, and has called us into a kingdom not of this world, so may our life be made ever richer in the things that do not pass away. Raise us up, we pray thee, in the power of his spirit, from the death of sin to the life of righteousness. Prepare us to follow him, in hope and trust, through all the darkness of the grave into the world of light whither he has led the way. And, when our spirits shrink before the mysteries of life and death, may we be comforted by the thought of that immortal love which knows no change, and feel that, whether we live or die, we are safe in thine everlasting arms. Amen. [36]

SERVICES FOR CONGREGATIONAL WORSHIP

THANKSGIVING FOR THE LIFE OF THE DEPARTED

O GOD, who art the strength of thy saints and who redeemest the souls of thy servants, we bless thy name for all those who have died in the Lord, and who now rest from their labours, having received the end of their faith, even the salvation of their souls. Especially we call to remembrance thy lovingkindness and thy tender mercies to this thy servant. For all thy goodness that withheld not his portion in the joys of this earthly life, and for thy guiding hand along the way of his pilgrimage, we give thee thanks and praise. Especially we bless thee for thy grace that kindled in his heart the love of thy dear name; that enabled him to fight the good fight, to endure unto the end, and to obtain the victory; yea, to become more than conqueror, through him that loveth us. We magnify thy holy name that his trials and temptations being ended, sickness and death being passed, with all the dangers and difficulties of this mortal life, his spirit is at home in thy presence, at whose right hand dwelleth eternal peace. And grant, O Lord, we beseech thee, that we who rejoice in the triumph of thy saints may profit by their example, that becoming followers of their faith and patience, we also may enter with them into an inheritance incorruptible and

undefiled, and that fadeth not away. Through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen. [2]

THE BOOK OF COMMON WORSHIP

WE thank thee for the dear and faithful dead, for those who have made the distant heavens a home for us, and whose truth and beauty are even now in our hearts. One by one thou dost gather the scattered families out of the earthly light into the heavenly glory, from the distractions and strife and weariness of time to the peace of eternity. We thank thee for the labours and the joys of these mortal years. We thank thee for our deep sense of the mysteries that lie beyond our dust, and for the eye of faith which thou hast opened for all who believe in thy Son to outlook that mark. May we live altogether in thy faith and love, and in that hope which is full of immortality. [120]

RUFUS ELLIS

O GOD, in whom our fathers trusted, and who hast brought them into a city of habitation, we thank thee for all who through faith and patience have inherited the promises, and pray that unto the end of our earthly pilgrimage we may be strengthened by their example and victory. [33]

JOHN WATSON

ALMIGHTY GOD, with whom do live the spirits of those who depart hence in the Lord, and with whom the souls of the faithful, after they are delivered from the burden of the flesh, are in joy and felicity; we give thee hearty thanks for the good examples of all those thy servants, who, having finished their course in faith, do now rest from their labours. [27]

THE BOOK OF COMMON PRAYER

FOR THE ETERNAL FELLOWSHIP

O THOU LORD of all worlds, we bless thy Name for all those who have entered into their rest, and reached the Promised Land, where thou art seen face to face. Give us grace to follow in their footsteps, as they followed in the footsteps of thy Holy

Son. Keep alive in us the memory of those dear to ourselves, whom thou hast called out of this world, and make it powerful to subdue within us every unworthy thought. Grant that every remembrance which turns our hearts from things seen to things unseen may lead us always upward to thee, till we too come to the eternal rest which thou hast prepared for thy people; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen. [119]

F. J. A. Hort

O King of Paradise, where light abounds and life reigns, give to our dear ones who are with thee a full share of thy treasures, that they may always be white with thy purity, tranquil with thy peace, and glad with thy joy. Let us live vividly in their present love as they live in ours, until the time of separation is past and we are taken to the place whither they have gone before, there to dwell with them in the perfect fellowship that knows no end. [34]

Bishop Charles H. Brent

Eternal Father, with whom do live the spirits of the just made perfect, we render thee humble and hearty thanks for all known to us who have departed this life in thy faith and fear, and who are now with thee in great felicity, beseeching that our fellowship may be with them every day, and that we be moved to follow in their footsteps, even as in their generation they served the Lord Christ. Amen. [33]

John Watson

Almighty God, we entrust all who are dear to us to thy never-failing care and love, for this life and the life to come; knowing that thou art doing for them better things than we can desire or pray for; and beseeching thee to continue thy protection to them; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen. [27]

The Book of Common Prayer

FOR THE BEREAVED

O Father, who in thy grace dost give us the companions of our hearts and unite them to us with bonds of undying love,

comfort thy sorrowing children. May they think of their beloved as still with thee. Let the memory of saintly lives strengthen their faith and hope and love. Grant them grace to return with courage to their home and work, and to discharge their duties with fidelity to thee and loyalty to those whose trust and affection they share. Enable them to serve their generation with patience and devotion as fellow-citizens with the saints in light, and unite them with those who before have entered into thine eternal city, through Jesus Christ, the Way, the Truth, and the Life. Amen. [121]

HENRY SLOANE COFFIN

O THOU who art the God of all comfort, who healest the broken in heart and bindest up their wounds, mercifully look upon those who are at this time bereaved. Be near to them in their sorrow, and let their sorrow draw them nearer to thee. Now that earthly joy and comfort fail, let the things unseen and eternal grow more real, more present, more full of meaning and power. Let thy strength sustain their weakness. Let thy grace enable them to say, "Not our will, but Thine be done." Let sorrow be free from bitterness. Let their minds be stayed on thee in perfect trust, and filled with thy peace, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen. [122]

ANTHOLOGY OF PRAYERS FOR PUBLIC WORSHIP

WE pray for all that mourn. We need not tell their sorrow unto thee. Thou knowest, and thou art the comforter of thy children, and in taking, as in giving, thy hand is the hand of a father. May they find peace in thee, even in the fellowship of thy gracious spirit. May the veil between be taken away, and some foregleams of the everlasting brightness kindle upon our faces. Sweeten for us our adversities; and though we go down into the valley of the shadow of death, may we know that thou art strengthening our souls, and that all things are working together for good to those that love thee. [120] *Abridged*

RUFUS ELLIS

FOR STRENGTH TO LIVE

O God, thou Helper of the helpless, sustain and comfort every mourning heart. In thy holy keeping are the living and the dead; and all are safe till thou bring them to thine everlasting light. Give us strength to return to the quiet duties of our place. With chastened desires, with better aspirations, with truer diligence, with less trust in ourselves and more rest in thee; may we dedicate ourselves anew to the service of thy will; that, in the faith and spirit of him who was made perfect through suffering, each of us may be ready to say, whenever the hour shall strike, "Father, I have finished the work which thou gavest me to do." Amen. [32]

James Martineau

FOR HELP

O Lord, our Heavenly Father, without whom all purposes are frustrate, all efforts are vain, grant us the assistance of the Holy Spirit, that we may not sorrow as those without hope, but may now return to the duties of our present life with humble confidence in thy protection, and so govern our thoughts and actions that no business or work may ever withdraw our minds from thee, but that in the changes of this life we may fix our hearts upon the reward which thou hast promised to them that serve thee, and that whatever things are true, whatever things are honest, whatever things are just, whatever things are pure, whatever things are lovely, whatever things are of good report, wherein there is virtue, wherein there is praise, we may think upon and do, and obtain mercy, consolation, and everlasting happiness. Grant this, O Lord, for the sake of Jesus Christ. Amen. [63]

Samuel Johnson

FOR PERFECT TRUST

O Most Loving Father, who willest us to give thanks for all things, to dread nothing but the loss of thee, and to cast all our care on thee, who carest for us; preserve us from faithless fears

and worldly anxieties, and grant that no clouds of this mortal life may hide from us the light of that love which is immortal, and which thou hast manifested unto us in thy Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen. [28]

WILLIAM BRIGHT

FOR KNOWLEDGE OF GOD

O LORD, by all thy dealings with us, whether of joy or pain, of light or darkness, let us be brought to thee. Let us value no treatment of thy grace simply because it makes us happy or because it makes us sad, because it gives us or denies us what we want; but may all that thou sendest us bring us to thee; that knowing thy perfectness we may be sure in every disappointment, thou art still loving us, in every darkness thou art still enlightening us, and in every enforced idleness thou art giving us life, as in his death thou didst give life to thy Son, our Saviour, Jesus Christ. Amen. [123]

PHILLIPS BROOKS

FOR THE COMFORT OF GOD

WE lift our souls to thee, for thou art our Father and with thee are light and life, and we would draw near to thee that thou mayest draw near to us, and that we may know and feel that all things are of God. May we be earnest to do, and patient to bear, thy will. May we thankfully acknowledge thine abounding mercies; and when we enter into the cloud and are cast upon the sea, may we believe that thou wilt be light and salvation. Be thou the comforter of the lonely heart, and with precious memories and with holy hopes revive the fainting spirit; and may we look forward and upward, in great faith, to the house eternal and on high. And as thou dost disappoint the hope of man, wilt thou grant abundantly that better and larger hope, that life which is immortality, and may thy spirit in our hearts be the earnest of that heavenly inheritance, that our joys and our griefs may be touched with thy light and love. [120]

RUFUS ELLIS

FOR FAITH

LORD of life and death, in whose hand our breath is, and whose are all our ways, our hearts turn to thee. Lord, we believe; help thou our unbelief, and lift us above the shadows of earth into the light of thy countenance and the comfort of thy presence. Help us to hear him who saith to thy children, "Because I live, ye shall live also." [120]

RUFUS ELLIS

FOR FORGIVENESS

WE know, Lord, as we lay our friends away, that we give them into thy hands, into thy heart, and that we give also into thy heart all our love and sorrow, our penitence for whatever more we might have been or done towards them. We pray thee to forgive us as we forgive each other, to keep alive and true in us the love by which we hold each other, and finally to bring us face to face in thy glory, which is thy loving Presence among us all. [91]

AUTHOR UNKNOWN

FOR PARENTS

FATHER OF MERCIES AND GOD OF ALL COMFORT, look in pity on these, thy servants, whose joy has been turned into sorrow, whose house has been left unto them desolate. They have drunk of the cup of bitterness; wilt thou not now give them the cup of consolation? Let not their faith die, nor their light go out in darkness. Give them the spirit of him who learned obedience by the things which he suffered, so that like him, they too may say, in meek and filial submission, "Not my will but thine be done." Comfort them with the assurance that their loved one is at rest in thee and will be remembered in the day when thou makest up the number of thy jewels. In this hour of trial draw thy servants close to thy love and help them to trust thee and to believe that deeper than the pain and the mystery of death are the everlasting arms of thy tender mercy. Hear our prayers for the sake of him who is our only mediator and advocate, our Saviour, Jesus Christ. Amen. [35]

SAMUEL MCCOMB

FOR A YOUNG PERSON

COME to thy servants, most merciful God, in their sore need, and though they may not fathom thy vast designs, temper their sorrow with gratitude. Turn their thoughts from that which is lost to that which they can never lose, to the radiant charm of youth, to the undying influence of maturing powers, that these sanctifying memories may be to them as a garment of praise for the spirit of heaviness. And beyond these intimate consolations, add a clearer discernment of the meaning of life; not in its duration but in its inspiration; not in the number of its years but in the timelessness of its integrity and charm; that the great words may be spoken again in their hearts: He having lived a short time has fulfilled a long time, and youth soon perfected rebukes the many years of the unrighteous. Set before them the appealing figure of the young Jesus, with his work, as it seemed, unfinished and his life prematurely and tragically lost; and let them hear his unperturbed and tranquillizing message: Peace I leave with you; my peace I give unto you. I have finished the work which was given me to do. [40]

FRANCIS G. PEABODY

FOR A CHILD

O GOD, whose most dear Son did take little children into his arms and bless them, give us grace, we beseech thee, to intrust the soul of this child to thy never-failing care and love, and bring us all to thy Heavenly Kingdom, through the same thy Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen. [27]

THE BOOK OF COMMON PRAYER

FOR A USEFUL WOMAN

GOD of all comfort, tenderly uphold these thy servants who in this home and family will feel most keenly the loss of her presence. Make us all glad in the thought of her well-rounded life, thankful for the fulfillment to her of the promise, "As thy

days, so shall thy strength be," and grateful that she was spared to receive so many evidences of the honour and love in which she was held. Enable us to think of her as no farther from us than thy presence, and that she has helped us to feel very near; and uplift us with the prospect for her of the closer intimacies and ampler service of the city of God into which she has passed. And while our minds follow her to thy presence, let a portion of her believing, hoping, persevering spirit rest upon us, that with her we may be of those who through faith and patience inherit the promises, and whose lives are hid with Christ in thee. Amen. [121]

HENRY SLOANE COFFIN

FOR A MINISTER

O GOD, the Father of lights, from whom come souls who shine in their generations, guides and teachers and friends of men, we bless thy name for the apostolic company of the ambassadors of Christ who throughout the centuries have led thy church. We give thee thanks for this minister of the gospel called from his earthly labours; for the inheritance of convictions and ideals to which he was born and the godly influences which shaped his early years; for his dedication of himself to the service of Christ in the Church, for the diligent student in college and seminary, with high visions of his calling, who formed lifelong habits of study and made himself a man of books; for the pastor who shepherded congregations with fidelity and the preacher who with painstaking preparation brought them the message of thy word; for men, women and children whom his ministry led into the Christian life and built up in faith and hope and love; for the man of God whose inner life was fed from springs from the everlasting hills, whose work and life men saw and knew there were hidings of power in the secret place of thy presence. We thank thee for the dear home ties with which thou didst enrich him: for the kindred and friends who surrounded him. We mourn his early going from us in the noontide of his strength and

usefulness; but we rejoice in our assurance that there is ampler scope for his powers and higher service for him in the City of God.

Father of tender mercies and God of all comfort, we commend unto thee this family so suddenly bereft of husband and father. Fold them to thy heart, and use the sympathy of men to minister thy loving kindness to them. Teach them to think of their dead as no farther from them than thy presence, and that is not distant, for thou hast promised: I will not fail thee neither will I in any wise forsake thee. Be with us all who were his friends and fellow-workers, consecrating us more fully to our tasks by the memory of his faithful life. And do thou, O Lord of the harvest, raise up among the students of today ministers of like devotion to thy church, as self-emptied and self-spending, as broad in sympathy, as courteous and kindly in spirit, as stalwart in faith, as industrious in the work assigned them.

O God, in whose hand are our times, we adore thee that thou hast come to us in Immanuel, God with us, revealing the glory of the life that now is and enriching us with hope of the life to come. We thank thee that Christ drank all the cup of our human experience, tasting joy and love and friendship and work, and tasting also pain and parting and tasting death for every man, and that he is touched with a feeling of our infirmities. And we humbly pray that he may so claim us as his own that whether we live it may be unto him or whether we die it may be unto him, and that found faithful in the few things of earth he may entrust us with many things and bid us share the joy of our Lord. In his company may we minister to the least of his brethren and so find ourselves at home when for us the veil parts and we stand in his presence. And unto him who loved us and loosed us from our sins in his blood, and hath made us to be a kingdom, to be priests unto his God and Father, be the glory forever. Amen. [121]

HENRY SLOANE COFFIN

PRAYERS FOR THE MARRIAGE SERVICE

PRAYERS FOR THE MARRIAGE SERVICE

O Eternal God, Creator and Preserver of all mankind, Giver of all spiritual grace, the Author of everlasting life; send thy blessing upon these thy servants, this man and this woman, whom we bless in thy Name; that they, living faithfully together, may surely perform and keep the vow and covenant betwixt them made (whereof this ring given and received is a token and pledge), and may ever remain in perfect love and peace together, and live according to thy laws; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen. [27]

The Book of Common Prayer

O God, who hast so consecrated the state of matrimony that in it is represented the spiritual marriage and unity betwixt Christ and his Church; look mercifully upon these thy servants, that they may love, honour, and cherish each other, and so live together in faithfulness and patience, in wisdom and true godliness, that their home may be a haven of blessing and of peace; through the same Jesus Christ our Lord, who liveth and reigneth with thee and the Holy Spirit ever, one God, world without end. Amen. [27]

The Book of Common Prayer

Almighty and Ever-Blessed God, whose presence is the happiness of every condition, and whose favour sweetens every relation; we beseech thee to be present and favourable unto these thy servants, that they may be truly joined in the honourable estate of marriage; as thou hast brought them together by thy providence, sanctify them by thy Spirit, giving them a new frame of heart for their new estate; and grant unto them, now in the hour of their affiance and throughout their wedded life, thy heavenly guidance; through our Lord Jesus Christ. Amen. [3]

The Book of Common Worship

MOST MERCIFUL AND GRACIOUS GOD, of whom the whole family in heaven and earth is named; bestow upon these thy servants the seal of thine approval, and thy fatherly benediction; granting them grace to fulfill, with pure and steadfast affection, the vow and covenant between them made. Guide them together, we beseech thee, in the happy way of righteousness and peace, that loving and serving thee, with one heart and mind, all the days of their life, they may be abundantly enriched with the tokens of thine everlasting grace, in Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen. [3]

THE BOOK OF COMMON WORSHIP

PRAYERS FOR THE COMMUNION SERVICE

PRAYERS FOR THE COMMUNION SERVICE

O God, who by the life and death and rising again of thy dear Son hast consecrated for us a new and living way into the holiest of all; cleanse our minds, we beseech thee, by the inspiration of thy Holy Spirit, that drawing near unto thee with a pure heart and conscience undefiled, we may receive these thy gifts without sin, and worthily magnify thy holy Name; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen. [125]

Liturgy of St. James

It is very meet, right, and our bounden duty, that we should at all times, and in all places, give thanks unto thee, O Lord, Holy Father, Almighty, Everlasting God.

Therefore with angels and archangels, and with all the company of heaven, we laud and magnify thy glorious name; evermore praising thee, and saying, Holy, holy, holy, Lord God of hosts; heaven and earth are full of thy glory; glory be to thee, O Lord, most high. Amen. [27]

The Book of Common Prayer

O God, Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who dost call us to draw near to thee in holy communion; look graciously, we beseech thee, upon thy servants who seek thy grace in this most holy ordinance. Give unto us true and hearty sorrow for past sins, power to confess the same unto thee, grace to seek thy mercy and forgiveness, and an earnest desire to walk before thee in newness and holiness of life; and mercifully grant that we, with all those who shall come to thy holy table, may be filled with thy Spirit in the inner man; that drawing near with penitent hearts and lively faith, we may receive the holy sacrament to our present and everlasting comfort; through thy Son our Saviour, Jesus Christ. Amen. [13]

Book of Common Order

Most Gracious God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, whose once offering up of himself upon the cross we commemorate before thee; we earnestly desire thy fatherly goodness to accept this our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving:

And we pray thee to bless and sanctify with thy Word and Spirit these thine own gifts of bread and wine which we set before thee, that we may receive by faith Christ crucified for us, and so feed upon him that he may be made one with us and we with him.

And here we offer and present unto thee ourselves, our souls and bodies, to be a reasonable, holy and living sacrifice unto thee: praying that all we, who are partakers of this holy communion, may find that in this place thou givest peace;

Through Jesus Christ our Lord; to whom with thee and the Holy Spirit, be the glory and the praise, both now and evermore. Amen. [3]

The Book of Common Worship

Gracious Father, who didst send forth thy Son Jesus our Lord to utter all thy will for man in a life of charity and self-sacrifice, we remember his great humility in that he took upon him the low estate of a servant and was subject to the pains and distresses of our humanity; his presence at feasts where hearts were glad and with mourners in their hour of bitterness; his sympathy with the multitude who hungered for bread and the bread of life and were as sheep without a shepherd; his patience with those who despised him; his boundless compassion; his constancy in the evil days when they all forsook him and fled; the peace and hidden joy of assured sonship in which he lived; his resoluteness in danger; his agony in the Garden; his acceptance of thy holy will; his prayer for those who ignorantly slew him; his confidence that at last all evil will be destroyed and all ignorance dispelled; and his return to thee to be our everlasting Friend and Saviour.

We remember also and give thanks for the immortal longings which he quickened in the souls of men; for his promise of new heavens and a new earth wherein shall dwell right-

eousness; for the shining of his mild and tolerant spirit age after age on the troubled sea of human passion; for the guiding lights he kindled; for the works which his servants, sustained by him, have wrought, and for the sorrows they have healed or prevented; for the comfort he has brought to our souls, and for the confidence with which in his company we face the unknown journey that yet remains. Amen. [17] *Adapted*

HUGH CAMERON

MOST HOLY AND MOST MERCIFUL GOD, our Heavenly Father, led by Jesus Christ we draw near to thee. Beneath the shadow of his Cross, in the light of his revelation, in the communion of his Spirit, in the fellowship of his Church, we would meditate and pray. We would remember Christ—remember that he has eaten with us the bread and drunk the cup of our life, that he had communion with us in our joy and sorrow, and tasted what it is for a man to die. We would remember the gracious beauty of his life, his obedience unto death, the charity of his cross, and his victory over the world's sin and sorrow. We would remember all that we owe to him—our greater nearness to thee and to one another, our knowledge of thy Fatherhood, and of our human brotherhood, our new and more abounding life, our deeper and more peaceful sense of immortality. Impress and quicken our hearts with the memory of our Master and Saviour till we learn to feel it to be no task to serve him, no hardship to follow him, in his obedience, and no burden to carry his cross. [15]

JOHN HUNTER

GRANT unto us, Almighty God, that we, communing with one another and with thee, may feel our hearts burn within us, until all pure and just and holy things are lovely to us, and we find nothing to fear but that which is hateful in thine eyes. Let thy peace possess our souls, while we look to thy loving-kindness and tender mercy to lift us above that which is low and mean; and, at last, give to the spirit within us a perfect

victory, and bring us safe through death into life everlasting. Amen. [36]

SERVICES FOR CONGREGATIONAL WORSHIP

AFTER COMMUNION

GRANT, O Lord, that the ears which have heard the voice of thy songs may be closed to the voice of clamour and dispute; that the eyes which have seen thy great love may also behold thy blessed hope; that the tongues which have sung thy praise may speak the truth; that the feet which have walked in thy courts may walk in the region of light; and that the souls of all who have received thy blessed Sacrament may be restored to newness of life. Glory be to thee for thy unspeakable gift. Amen. [126]

LITURGY OF MALABAR

O GOD, our Heavenly Father, from whom cometh down every good and perfect gift, we give thee thanks for all the blessings we have this day received at the table of the Lord. Having received Christ Jesus afresh as our Lord and Saviour, may we be empowered to walk in him; may we be rooted and built up in him, and established in the faith as we have been taught, abounding therein with all thanksgiving. Make thy grace sufficient for us day by day. Teach us to fight the good fight of faith, to the which we have been this day called afresh, and have professed a good profession before many witnesses.

Remember graciously, O Lord, all those with whom we are one this day in the body of Christ, the multitudes of every name who are joined with us in the one household of faith, and our brethren in Christ throughout the world. Rejoicing this day in the communion of saints, we bless thy holy Name for all thy servants who, having accomplished their warfare, are at rest with thee. We rejoice to believe that we are still

one with them in the same holy fellowship. We pray thee to enable us to follow their faith and good example, that we with them may finally be partakers of thy heavenly kingdom. Hear us, O Heavenly Father, for Jesus' sake, to whom with thee and the Holy Ghost be glory for ever and ever. Amen. [14]

DIRECTORY AND FORMS FOR PUBLIC WORSHIP

ALMIGHTY AND MOST GRACIOUS FATHER, who this day hast given thy servants to remember the Lord Jesus in the sacrament of the Supper; grant that that mind which was in him may also be so formed in us that we may take upon us the burdens and duties which have been appointed us and follow in his steps, bearing contradiction patiently, subduing in ourselves every lawless and guilty desire, setting ourselves steadfastly against every evil work, and by our willing services and sacrifices bringing comfort and hope to those who are distressed; through the same our Saviour Jesus Christ. Amen. [17]

HUGH CAMERON

PRAYERS FOR THE SERVICE OF BAPTISM

PRAYERS FOR THE SERVICE OF BAPTISM

BAPTISM OF CHILDREN

ALMIGHTY GOD, our Heavenly Father, the protector of all the weak, keep, guard, and bless these children [*or this child*] forevermore. May *they* be bringers of joy to the home and to the world into which *they* have been born. As *they* grow in years may *they* also grow in strength and beauty of character; and being led in the ways of divine wisdom, stand ever among thy good and faithful servants who rejoice to do thy will.

Endue these into whose care thou hast committed *these* children with a wise, loving, devout, and faithful spirit. Help *them* to make *their* home the scene of the highest affections, the noblest discipline, and the purest religion.

As we gladly welcome *these children* into the congregation of Christ's flock, to be under our special care, may we help *them* so that *they* shall never be ashamed to confess the faith of Christ crucified, but shall fight loyally under his banner against all evil, and continue Christ's faithful soldiers and servants unto the end. Amen. [113]

HENRY HALLAM SAUNDERSON

BAPTISM OF A CHILD

MOST HOLY AND MERCIFUL FATHER, we give thee hearty thanks that thou hast numbered us amongst thy people, and dost also call our children unto thee, marking them with this sacrament, as a singular token and badge of thy love. Wherefore, we beseech thee to confirm thy favour more and more towards us, and to take into thy tuition and defense this child, whom we offer and present unto thee with common supplications. Grant that he may know thee his Heavenly Father, through thy Spirit working in his heart, and that he may not

be ashamed to confess the faith of Christ crucified; but may continue his good and faithful servant, and so prevail against evil that in the end he may obtain the victory, and be exalted into the liberty of thy kingdom; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen. [3]

THE BOOK OF COMMON WORSHIP

ALMIGHTY AND MOST MERCIFUL FATHER, who claimest the children as thy heritage, and who hast established an everlasting covenant with thy people and with their children: we beseech thee graciously to receive and bless this child, whom his parents now dedicate to thee. As, in thy name, he is baptized with the baptism of water, do thou endow him with the gift of the Holy Spirit. Accept him for thine own; set upon him the consecrating seal of thy covenant; and evermore endue him with thy heavenly grace; that to his life's end he may glorify thee with body and spirit; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen. [1] *Adapted*

HUBERT SIMPSON

O LOVING GOD, our Father, whose promise is unto us and to our children, give thy power and blessing unto this service of consecration. Endue those into whose care thou hast committed this child with a wise, loving, devout and faithful spirit. Help them to make their home the abode of high affections, of noble discipline, and of pure religion. May they have wisdom and power through thy grace to teach and train this child that he may grow in grace and in the knowledge of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. Amen. [5]

BOOK OF COMMON WORSHIP

BAPTISM OF AN ADULT

O LORD AND FATHER of us all, we give thee thanks and praise for thy lovingkindness to this thy servant, to whom thou givest shelter within the covenant of thy peace, and whom thou makest to sit down at thy table. We entreat thee of thy great

mercy to perfect in him the good work thou hast begun; that he being defended by thy fatherly hand, and strengthened with power through thy Spirit in the inward man, may be enabled to keep this covenant without spot, unrebukable, until the day of the appearing of our Lord Jesus Christ. Amen. [5]

BOOK OF COMMON WORSHIP

ALMIGHTY AND EVER-BLESSED GOD, who in thy great goodness hast given us a place within thy church and marked us with the seal of thy love in baptism, do thou mercifully hear us as we pray on behalf of him who has now solemnly dedicated himself unto thee in this holy ordinance. Do thou who givest power unto the faint enable him daily to perform his vows. May thy fatherly love shine upon his earthly path; may the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ abound towards him, that he, having all sufficiency in all things, may abound unto every good work: and may the Spirit of God rest upon him, to guide and comfort and sanctify. Let him never grow weary in well-doing, but fight the good fight, and lay hold on eternal life. And having served his generation faithfully by the will of God, may he in thy great mercy have an entrance ministered to him abundantly into thy heavenly Kingdom through Jesus Christ our Lord; to whom, with thee the Father and the Holy Ghost, be honour and glory everlasting. Amen. [14]

DIRECTORY AND FORMS FOR PUBLIC WORSHIP

PRAYERS FOR WEEK-DAY SERVICES

PRAYERS FOR WEEK-DAY SERVICES

MORNING

GRANT us, O Lord, to pass this day in gladness and peace, without stumbling and without stain; that, reaching the eventide victorious over all temptation, we may praise thee, the eternal God, who art blessed, and dost govern all things, world without end. Amen. [51]

MOZARABIC SACRAMENTARY

O THOU who sendest forth the light, createst the morning, and makest the sun to rise on the good and the evil; enlighten the blindness of our minds with the knowledge of the truth; lift up the light of thy countenance upon us, that in thy light we may see light, and, at the last, in the light of grace the light of glory. Amen. [82]

LANCELOT ANDREWES

O GOD, the King Eternal, who dividest the day from the darkness, and turnest the shadow of death into the morning; drive far from us all wrong desires, incline our hearts to keep thy law, and guide our feet into the way of peace; that having done thy will with cheerfulness while it was day, we may, when the night cometh, rejoice to give thee thanks; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen. [27]

THE BOOK OF COMMON PRAYER

O GOD, our Father, who didst so love the world as to give thine only begotten Son, grant us both the desire and the will to love thee in return. Help us this day, amid our manifold interests and duties, at all times to remember thee and, alike by what we do and by what we are, to render thee faithful and loving service. Deliver us from indolence and weakness; teach us to look away from ourselves to the hopes and needs of others; and grant us power so to use our varied gifts and privileges as to brighten and ennoble the life of the world; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen. [150]

H. BISSEKER

LORD, we go to our daily work; help us to take pleasure therein. Show us clearly what our duty is; help us to be faithful in doing it. Let all we do be well done, fit for thine eye to see. Give us strength to do, patience to hear; let our courage never fail. When we cannot love our work, let us think of it as thy task; and, by our true love to thee, make unlovely things shine in the light of thy great love. Amen. [21]

GEORGE DAWSON

ETERNAL GOD, who hast neither dawn nor evening, yet sendest us the alternate mercies of the darkness and the day; there is no light but thine, without, within. As thou liftest the curtain of night from our abodes, take also the veil from all our hearts. Rise with thy morning upon our souls; quicken all our labour and our prayer; and, though all else declines, let the noontide of thy grace and peace remain. May we walk, while it is yet day, in the steps of him who, with fewest hours, finished thy divinest work. Amen. [32]

JAMES MARTINEAU

THE day returns and brings us the petty round of irritating concerns and duties. Help us to play the man, help us to perform them with laughter and kind faces; let cheerfulness abound with industry. Give us to go blithely on our business all this day; bring us to our resting beds weary and content and undishonoured, and grant us in the end the gift of sleep. Amen. [70]

ROBERT LOUIS STEVENSON

ONCE more a new day lies before us, our Father. As we go out among men to do our work, touching the hands and lives of our fellows, make us, we pray thee, friends of all the world. Save us from blighting the fresh flower of any heart by the flare of sudden anger or secret hate. May we not bruise the rightful self-respect of any by contempt or malice. Help us to cheer the suffering by our sympathy, to freshen the drooping by our hopefulness, and to strengthen in all the wholesome

sense of worth and the joy of life. Save us from the deadly poison of class pride. Grant that we may look all men in the face with the eyes of a brother. If any needs us, make us ready to yield our help, ungrudgingly unless higher duties claim us, and may we rejoice that we have it in us to be helpful to our fellow-men. [56]

WALTER RAUSCHENBUSCH

GRANT, O Lord, that this day which thou hast given us in mercy may be returned unto thee in service. As thou hast guarded us during the helpless hours of sleep, so do thou guide us during the appointed hours of labour; that all our tasks may be gladly and faithfully performed, as in thy sight; that our burdens may not be too heavy for us, because thine aid and comfort are with us continually; and that in nothing we may displease thee, or injure one another. But if in anything we fail or come short, through ignorance or weakness, O God, let thy fatherly wisdom correct us, and thine infinite mercy forgive us, and thy divine love amend our fault; through Jesus Christ our Saviour. Amen. [3]

THE BOOK OF COMMON WORSHIP

ALMIGHTY GOD, grant that we may awake to the joy of this day, finding gladness in all its toil and difficulty, in all its pleasure and success, in all its failure and sorrow; cause us to throw open the windows of our lives, that we may look always away from ourselves and behold the need of the world; give us the will and the strength to bring the gift of thy gladness to others of thy children, that with them we may stand to bear the burden and heat of the day and offer thee the praise of work well done; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen. [37]

CHARLES LEWIS SLATTERY

O GOD, who dividest the day from the night, separate our deeds from the gloom of darkness. As thou hast awakened our bodies from sleep, so, we beseech thee, awaken our souls from sin: as thou hast caused the light of day to shine on our bodily eyes, cause the light of thy Word and Holy Spirit to illuminate

our hearts; and so give us grace, as the children of light, to walk in all holy obedience before thy face this day, that in all our thoughts, words, and dealings, we may endeavour to keep faith and a clean conscience towards thee and towards all men; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen. [13]

BOOK OF COMMON ORDER

WE thank thee, O God, for the endless renewing of life. Thou that art never weary of setting us free from the bonds wherewith we have bound ourselves, make us to walk in this new day without fear or any kind of bondage. Open our eyes to receive new light; open our ears to hear the voices that are calling to us to make the world new by the power of love. Fit us for the task that is ours, and endue us with the spirit of that heavenly kingdom which is to come upon the earth where all shall be brothers and men shall be the people of God. Amen. [36]

SERVICES FOR CONGREGATIONAL WORSHIP

O GOD, who hast commanded that no man should be idle; give us grace to employ all our talents and faculties in the service appointed for us; that whatsoever our hand findeth to do, we may do it with our might. Cheerfully may we go in the road which thou hast marked out, not desiring too earnestly that it should be either more smooth or more wide; but, daily seeking our way in thy light, may we trust ourselves and the issue of our journey to thee, the Fountain of joy, and sing songs of praise as we go along. Then, O Lord, receive us at the gate of life, which thou hast opened for us in Christ Jesus. Amen. [39]

PRAYERS FOR THE CHRISTIAN YEAR

O THOU who art from everlasting to everlasting, whom finite thought cannot measure or human experience exhaust, we commit ourselves to thy care at the beginning of this day; knowing that though we do not comprehend thee, thou knowest us altogether, and art sufficient for all our needs.

We thank thee for all the way thou hast led us in the past —for home, for friends, for work, for experience, for sorrow, and for joy. We rejoice that in that unknown future towards which we are moving, thou art going before and art waiting even now to meet us.

O Thou who art light and in whom is no darkness at all, from whom we would fain hide ourselves, because we know that in thy pure and holy presence we shall be convicted of sin, reveal thyself now unto us, we beseech thee, that in thy marvellous light we may see ourselves as thou seest us; the baser self we have too often been, the better self by thy grace we may become.

Father of the solitary, Comforter of those who mourn, Friend and Companion of those who rejoice, Guide of the perplexed, the inexhaustible Source of happiness, of courage, and of wisdom, we rejoice to know that what we cannot wisely plan for ourselves, thou art even now planning for us; and what we cannot provide for ourselves, thou art even now ready to give us.

O Thou Father of us all, from whom every family in heaven and on earth is named, who didst send Jesus Christ our Lord to establish thy kingdom on earth, the kingdom of righteousness and joy and peace, help us, we beseech thee, as we touch our fellows this day in the complex relations of our common life, to desire what thou dost purpose, and to hate what thou dost despise. May the standards by which we judge the men we meet be the standards of our Lord Jesus Christ, who desires for men nothing but the best and grieves when they miss what he has to give.

O God, our Father, as we rise from our knees and go about our several duties, may we not leave thee behind. Grant unto each one of us that heavenly guidance and control, in all our labours, pleasures, and trials, which shall maintain our hearts in peace with one another and with thee. Graciously help and prosper us in the doing of our various duties, with a willing and a cheerful mind; and defend us all, by thine almighty power, both from inward evil and from outward harm; so

that, when the day is ended, it may not leave us in sorrow, strife, or shame, but in true unity and thankful rest, through thy merciful favour and thy forgiving love, in Christ Jesus our Lord. Amen. [138]

WILLIAM ADAMS BROWN

SINCE it is of thy mercy, O gracious Father, that another day is added to our lives; we here dedicate both our souls and our bodies to thee and to thy service, in a sober, righteous, and godly life: in which resolution, do thou, O merciful God, confirm and strengthen us; that, as we grow in age, we may grow in grace, and in the knowledge of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. Amen. [27]

THE BOOK OF COMMON PRAYER

So help us, we implore thee, while we stand still on this side of all that the day may bring, to resolve that we will trust thee this day to shine into any gloom of the mind, to stand by us in any trial of our love, and to give us rest in thy good time as we need. [127]

ROBERT COLLYER

LET nothing take us unawares, inasmuch as we are found in thee. [86]

BISHOP H. C. G. MOULE

O LORD, renew our spirits, and draw our hearts unto thyself, that our work may not be to us a burden, but a delight. [80]

BENJAMIN JENKS

EVENING

O GOD, the Fountain of life and the Sun of our souls; enlighten our minds and direct our hearts, that in our desires we may conform to thy holy will, and in our prayers may seek those things thou lovest to bestow.

Pardon, we beseech thee, the sins and follies we have committed this day: the half-heartedness of our service, the selfish-

ness of our hearts, the thoughtlessness of our words and actions. Let it be so with us, O God, no longer. Awaken within us a hatred of sin, a hunger for righteousness, a love to thee, above all the desires of the world; that in simplicity and godly sincerity, by thy grace, we may lead our daily life in the world.

O thou who slumberest not nor sleepest, watch over all within this house, and all who are dear to us, through the hours of the night. Look down with compassion upon the whole brotherhood of men. Promote their peace, their liberty, their welfare in all things temporal and eternal. Visit the poor, the sick, the heavy-laden, and the dying with thy help; equip us also to minister to them in thy Name. Awaken the spirit of love in men's hearts, so that class shall not array itself against class, but all men shall be united in upbuilding thy kingdom of justice and righteousness: for Jesus' sake. Amen. [145]

LOUIS F. BENSON

DRAW unto thyself, O God, our thoughts and desires; and grant us the aid of thy Holy Spirit, that we may ask such things as shall please thee, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

We thank thee for the help and countenance thou hast given us throughout the past day in our several occupations, and that at evening we are still with thee. Grant us, we beseech thee, such quiet rest as shall enable us to go forth tomorrow with new strength for a new day. Pardon, O God, wherein we have offended against thee by an undue concern for the cares and pleasures of life. Forgive the hearts that have suffered the thoughts of earth to rob thee of their homage and love. Teach us to esteem thy lovingkindness as better than life, thy law as more precious than gold. Amidst all the hopes and fears of the world, take not thy Holy Spirit from us; but grant that our thoughts may be fixed on thee, and that finally we may obtain everlasting happiness; for Christ's sake.

Hear us, O God, while we plead not only for ourselves, but for all men; that thou wilt bring them into brotherhood, make wars to cease, beat down the forces of evil, and uproot selfishness and injustice. Persuade men to righteousness in all the

concerns of this life, and inspire them with the vision of the life to come; that the hope of that better country may purify their hearts. Lord, hear us, and save us all, for thy great mercy's sake. Amen. [145]

LOUIS F. BENSON

ACCEPT the work of this day, O Lord, as we lay it at thy feet. Thou knowest its imperfections, and we know. Of the brave purposes of the morning only a few have found their fulfilment. We bless thee that thou art no hard taskmaster, watching grimly the stint of work we bring, but the father and teacher of men who rejoices with us as we learn to work. We have naught to boast before thee, but we do not fear thy face. Thou knowest all things and thou art love. Accept every right intention however brokenly fulfilled, but grant that ere our life is done we may under thy tuition become true master workmen, who know the art of a just and valiant life. [56]

WALTER RAUSCHENBUSCH

O GOD, the Eternal Light, the Splendour of the stars, the Clearness of the night, the uncomprehended Enlightener of the darkness; grant us to pass this night in security and peace; and if we have this day suffered any stain of sin, do thou, the Pitiful and Merciful, forgive; through Jesus Christ our Saviour. Amen. [51]

MOZARABIC SACRAMENTARY

O ALMIGHTY FATHER, we thine unworthy children present ourselves before the footstool of thy mercy, beseeching thee to forgive us the manifold sins, negligences, and ignorances of which we have been guilty on this day. Pardon our want of zeal in thy service, the coldness of our hearts, and the wandering of our thoughts. We bless thee, O Father, for the opportunities thou hast given us of serving thee, and pray thee to give us and all hearers of thy Word grace to understand, diligence and attention to consider, and watchfulness to carry into

practice, the holy lessons which we, this day, have heard. Let thy Holy Spirit dwell in our hearts, sanctifying our thoughts, guiding our affections, directing our wills, that we may in all the work of the week glorify thee, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen. [146]

JEREMY TAYLOR

ALMIGHTY GOD, our Heavenly Father, we thank thee for all that thou unfoldest and revealest through the veil of earthly things, and for thoughts which have strengthened us to work patiently, to endure steadfastly, and to continue in the doing of thy will. We also bless and praise thee, O Lord our God, that when we are in darkness and we see thee not, thy heaven remaineth full of light, and we beseech thee to help us at all times to remember that the darkness and the light are both alike to thee; grant this through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen. [91]

AUTHOR UNKNOWN

WATCH thou, dear Lord, with those who wake, or watch, or weep tonight, and give thine angels charge over those who sleep. Tend thy sick ones, O Lord Christ. Rest thy weary ones. Bless thy dying ones. Soothe thy suffering ones. Pity thine afflicted ones. Shield thy joyous ones. And all, for thy love's sake. Amen. [6]

ST. AUGUSTINE

O GOD, who never sleepest and art never weary, have mercy upon those who watch tonight; on those who command, that they may be strengthened with counsel; on the sick, that they may obtain sleep; on the faint-hearted, that they may have hope; on the light-hearted, lest they forget thee; on the dying, that they may find peace; on the sinful, that they may turn again; and save us, O good Lord. Amen. [19]

THE KINGDOM, THE POWER AND THE GLORY

O ALMIGHTY FATHER, who, in thy divine mercy dost cover the earth with the curtain of darkness, that all the weary may rest; grant to us, and to all men, rest in thee this night. Let thy

grace, we beseech thee, comfort and support all that are to spend it in sorrow, in affliction, or in fear. We commend into thy hands ourselves, with all our dear relations, friends and neighbours. Strengthen and confirm thy faithful people; convert the wicked, arouse the careless, recover the fallen, relieve the sick, give peace to the dying, and remove all hindrances to the advancement of thy truth, that thy Holy Name may be glorified in Jesus Christ, our Lord and Saviour. Amen. [55]

H. STOBART

O LORD, who watchest over thy children while they sleep; receive us and all we love into thy keeping; forgive us wherein we have been ungrateful; wherein we have done our best grant that we may forget our failure. Be a resting-place for all who are in any trouble. Defend great causes in Church and Nation, for that without thee those who watch them wake in vain. Guard the workers of the night, keeping far from them the powers of darkness; and to all others grant the gift of sleep, that when the morning cometh the whole world may rejoice in thy light; through Jesus Christ our Saviour. Amen. [37] *Adapted*

CHARLES LEWIS SLATTERY

BEFORE we go to rest, we would commit ourselves to God's care through Christ, beseeching him to forgive us for all our sins of this day past, and to keep alive his grace in our hearts, and to cleanse us from all sin, pride, harshness and selfishness, and give us the spirit of meekness, humility, firmness, and love. O Lord, keep thyself present to us ever, and perfect thy strength in our weakness. Take us and ours under thy blessed care this night and evermore; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen. [147]

THOMAS ARNOLD

INTO thine arms we now commend ourselves this night. We will lay us down in peace, if thou speak peace to us through Jesus Christ. May our last thoughts be of thee. And when we awake, may thy Spirit bring heavenly things to our mind.

Pardon the imperfections of our prayers. Supply what we have omitted to ask for, and do for us exceeding abundantly above all that we ask or think; for the alone merits of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen. [148]

FIELDING OULD

O ALMIGHTY FATHER, who neither slumberest nor sleepest, we humbly pray thee to watch over us this night with the eyes of thy mercy. Grant us quiet and refreshing sleep, such as may fit us for the duties of the morrow. Put far from us all worldly cares and earthly fears, and give us holy thoughts of thee, that we may repose in peace, and whether we wake or sleep, may live together with him, who died and was buried and rose again for us, thy Son Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen. [55]

H. STOBART

O GOD, who hast given the day to man for labour, and the night for rest, protect us by thy watchful providence during the coming night, and all the nights and days of our pilgrimage. Cover all our sins with thy mercy, as thou coverest the earth with darkness during the night. And when our days are ended, and our work is finished in this world, may we depart hence in the blessed assurance of thy favour, and in the certain hope of the resurrection to immortal life, which thou hast given us in our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. Amen. [13]

BOOK OF COMMON ORDER

O GOD, with whom there is no darkness, but the night shineth as the day, keep and defend us, and all thy people, in soul and body, during the coming night. May we rest in the consciousness of thy favour; in the peace of a good conscience; in the hope of a better life; in the faith of thy providence; in the love of thy Spirit.

May we rise up again to diligence in our several callings, to work the work of God while the day lasts, seeing the night cometh in which no man can work. And whether we wake or sleep, may we live together with Christ. Amen. [13]

BOOK OF COMMON ORDER

ALMIGHTY GOD, the Father of our spirits; meet with us at close of day, and grant unto us, thy children, the peace which the world cannot give. May no unhallowed thoughts or cares disturb the quiet of this evening hour. Deliver us from the vain things which have such power over us. May we learn wisdom, receive strength, gain hope, feel the influence of things unseen, and find rest in God. Amen. [2]

THE BOOK OF COMMON WORSHIP

LIGHTEN our darkness, we beseech thee, O Lord, and by thy great mercy defend us from all perils and dangers of this night; for the love of thine only Son, our Saviour, Jesus Christ. Amen. [7]

GELASIAN SACRAMENTARY

SEND thy peace into our hearts, O Lord, at the evening hour, that we may be contented with thy mercies of this day, and confident of thy protection for this night; and now, having forgiven others, even as thou dost forgive us, may we have a pure comfort and a healthful rest within the shelter of this home; through Jesus Christ our Saviour. Amen. [2]

THE BOOK OF COMMON WORSHIP

TAKE us, we pray thee, O Lord of our life, into thy keeping this night and for ever. O thou Light of lights, keep us from inward darkness; grant us so to sleep in peace, that we may arise to work according to thy will; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen. [82]

LANCELOT ANDREWES

BE present, O merciful God, and protect us through the silent hours of this night, so that we who are wearied by the work and the changes of this fleeting world may rest upon thy eternal changelessness; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen. [91]

AUTHOR UNKNOWN

O Lord our God, refresh us with quiet sleep when we are wearied with the day's labour, that, being assisted with the help which our weakness needs, we may be devoted to thee both in body and mind; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen. [47]

Leonine Sacramentary

Abide with us, good Lord, this night and for ever. May we lay us down with full trust in thy goodness and in perfect charity with all men, and be raised up again to praise thee for all thy mercies, through Jesus Christ. Amen. [55]

H. Stobart

SOURCES

SOURCES

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INDICES

INDEX OF FIRST LINES OF PRAYERS.

INDEX OF AUTHORS AND ANTHOLOGIES.

CONCISE TOPICAL INDEX.

INDEX OF FIRST LINES OF PRAYERS

The vocative "O," with which many prayers begin, has been omitted from the opening words as given in this index.

PAGE

Abide with us, Good Lord, this night 269
Abide with us, O Searching and Chastening Spirit 50
Accept the work of this day, O Lord, as we lay 264
Accept, we beseech thee, our evening thanksgiving 49
Almighty and All Merciful God, the Source of all life 40
Almighty and Eternal God whose light doth shine. 203
Almighty and Ever-Blessed God, who in thy great goodness 253
Almighty and Ever-Blessed God whose presence is the happiness. 239
Almighty and Everlasting God, before whom stand 197
Almighty and Everlasting God, in whom we live and move and have our being. 38
Almighty and Everlasting God, who art always more ready to hear. 57
Almighty and Everlasting God, who art the Brightness 203
Almighty and Everlasting God, who hatest nothing that thou hast made. 183
Almighty and Everlasting God, who, of thy tender love 188
Almighty and Everlasting God, whom the heaven of heavens. 47
Almighty and Merciful Father, who art the help. 155
Almighty and Merciful God, the Fountain of all goodness. 57
Almighty and Most Gracious Father, who girdest the feeble with strength. 44
Almighty and Most Gracious Father, who this day hast given thy servants. 247
Almighty and Most Merciful Father, from whom cometh down. 71
Almighty and Most Merciful Father; we have erred. 57
Almighty and Most Merciful Father, who callest the sinner. 63
Almighty and Most Merciful Father, who claimest 252
Almighty and Most Merciful Father, who hast given us grace. 208
Almighty and Most Merciful God, we acknowledge and confess 60
Almighty and Most Merciful God, who hast appointed our portion 50
Almighty Father, as we keep holy time under the deepening. 209
Almighty Father, the strength of all valiant Spirits 187
Almighty Father, we thine unworthy children present. 264
Almighty Father, who art afflicted in the afflictions 153
Almighty Father, who, in thy divine mercy, dost cover 265
Almighty Father, who neither slumberest 267
Almighty Father, who with untiring love 182
Almighty God and Everlasting Father who dost govern. 213
Almighty God and Everlasting Father who dost govern all things in heaven and earth 213
Almighty God and Father, under whose mighty and gracious protection. 81
Almighty God, Creator and Redeemer of all mankind 129
Almighty God, Father of all mercies, we thine unworthy servants 70
Almighty God, Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, Maker of all things. 58
Almighty God, Father of our Lord Jesus Christ who didst raise 188
Almighty God, from whom all thoughts of truth 130
Almighty God, from whom every good prayer cometh 36
Almighty God, grant that we may awake 259

PAGE
Almighty God, grant unto this land a new birth 194
Almighty God, in whom is no darkness at all 97
Almighty God, in whose hand are all the nations 131
Almighty God in whose light alone we know ourselves 89
Almighty God, Lord of Peace and Giver of Rest 48
Almighty God, Lord of the storm and of the calm 93
Almighty God, of whose righteous will all things are 133
Almighty God, our Heavenly Father, God of our fathers 201
Almighty God, our Heavenly Father, in whose hands 190
Almighty God, Spirit of purity and grace, whose salvation is never far 60
Almighty God, the Ever Blessed, the Ever Holy, whose mercy 40
Almighty God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ and our Father; 40
Almighty God, the Father of our Spirits, meet with us 268
Almighty God the Fountain of all wisdom 114
Almighty God, the Giver of all true thoughts and resolves 43
Almighty God, the Rock of Ages, on thee we build 215
Almighty God, the unfailing Source of light and mercy 181
Almighty God, unto whom all hearts be open, all desires known 36
Almighty God, we entrust all who are dear to us 228
Almighty God, we invoke thee 163
Almighty God, we thank thee for the life of Jesus Christ 185
Almighty God, who alone canst order the unruly wills 114
Almighty God, who alone givest wisdom and understanding 136
Almighty God, who art beyond the reach of our highest thought 39
Almighty God, who art our Father, we lift up our hearts to thee 38
Almighty God, who by the birth of thy holy Child Jesus 205
Almighty God, who didst lead our fathers to these shores 193
Almighty God, who dost hold us to account for the use 199
Almighty God, who dost inspire the hearts of all who would serve thee 153
Almighty God, who dwellest in light unapproachable 43
Almighty God, who hast brought again from the dead our Lord Jesus 188
Almighty God, who hast given us grace at this time 35
Almighty God, who hast given us this good land 131
Almighty God, who hast placed us in a world of things 97
Almighty God, who hast revealed the glory 206
Almighty God, who hast set mankind in the midst of giant forces 156
Almighty God, who hast taught us to make supplications 126
Almighty God, who in the life and teaching of thy Son 187
Almighty God, who in thy Providence hast made us citizens 194
Almighty God, who knowest the weakness which we are slow to confess 185
Almighty God, whose goodness loved us into life 158
Almighty God, whose most dear Son went not up to joy 187
Almighty God, with whom do live the spirits of those 227
Almighty Lord and Heavenly Father, we beseech thee to guide and govern 198
And as we bless thy holy name 200
As thou makest the outgoings of the morning and evening 119
As we have come into this place of prayer 49
As we keep holy time, O Lord 209

Be present, O Merciful God 268
Be thou in every difficulty 116
Be with us in all the changes 118
Before thee, O Heavenly Father, we remember those 198
Before we go to rest 266

PAGE
Behold, O God of Nations ... 140
Break thou the spell of the enchantments ... 129

Come to thy servants, most merciful God ... 233
Continue to us, we beseech thee, thy lovingkindness ... 93
Control by thy law of human brotherhood ... 147
Creator and Ruler of Mankind ... 133

Deepen and quicken within us, O God, the sense of thy presence ... 46
Draw unto thyself, O God ... 263

Enlighten our minds to know thee ... 119
Eternal and Ever-Blessed God ... 113
Eternal Father, by whose goodness ... 48
Eternal Father, with whom do live the spirits ... 228
Eternal God, Creator and Preserver of all Mankind ... 239
Eternal God, for whom no dawn arises ... 99
Eternal God, in whom we live and move ... 59
Eternal God, our dwelling place ... 216
Eternal God, the Father of Spirits and the Lover ... 192
Eternal God, who committest us to the swift ... 111
Eternal God, who hast neither dawn nor ... 37
Eternal God, who makest all things new ... 181
Eternal, Holy, Almighty, whose name is love ... 42
Ever-living God, by whose mercy ... 180

Father and King, we pray thee for the quiet mind ... 112
Father in Heaven, who of thy great mercy hast brought ... 78
Father of all Mercies! God of all Comfort! we bring ... 60
Father of infinite Compassion ... 157
Father of lights and Fountain of all Knowledge ... 150
Father of Mercies and God of all Comfort, look in pity ... 232
Father of Mercies and God of all Comfort, our only help ... 155
Father of Spirits: we bless thee for every gracious ... 183
Father, we thank thee for the Church ... 140
Father, who hast declared thy love to men ... 206
Father, who in thy grace dost give us the companions ... 228
Fill us with all joy and peace in believing ... 117
For the life which thou hast given and preserved ... 72
For the sorrows which brought no softening of heart ... 62

Give ear, O Lord, unto our prayer, and attend to the voice ... 95
Give to each one of us, O Lord, a reverence for the truth ... 106
Give us grace, O Lord, to work while it is day ... 103
Give us, O Lord, a steadfast heart ... 118
Give us so to know Christ and his life, that the same mind ... 94
Give, we pray, to administrators of business affairs ... 143
Giver of all good, whose desire it is that all should come ... 94
Giver of every good and perfect gift, we acknowledge ... 172
God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ who didst lead thy son ... 185
God, Author of Eternal Light, do thou shed forth ... 36
God, by whom the meek are guided in judgment ... 98
God, by whose word and wisdom we are made partakers ... 73
God, eternal and changeless, who through ever-changing scenes ... 182

PAGE
God, Eternal Source of Wisdom, Power and Love 47
God, Father of our Lord Jesus Christ who dost call us to draw near in holy communion 243
God, for the day of whose power 203
God, forasmuch as without thee 163
God, Fountain of Love, pour thy love 118
God, from whom all holy desires, all good counsels 113
God, Giver of all good and Fountain 202
God, Giver of life and of all that makes life good 80
God, gracious and long-suffering, who delightest in mercy 62
God, Inspirer of the world's joy 106
God, in whom our fathers trusted and who hast brought 227
God, in whom we have our being, who in thy light 89
God, merciful and long-suffering; we have broken 61
God, Most Holy, Wise and Powerful Preserver and Governor 114
God, most merciful and gracious, of whose bounty 171
God, most merciful and most gracious, who hast encouraged 126
God of all comfort, tenderly uphold 233
God of all comfort, we commend to thy mercy 153
God of all Grace, grant unto us thy peace 38
God of all peace and consolation 191
God of all power and might, and Maker and Ruler of Men 199
God of Hope who waitest through the centuries 204
God of Love, in whose Providence thy world 207
God of Love, we yield thee thanks for whatever thou hast given 71
God of Love, whose most gracious Son rode 186
God of our Fathers, who didst lead thine ancient people 149
God of our Fathers, who hast made us the heirs 190
God of our Salvation, we praise thy name 192
God of Peace, who hast taught us that in returning 224
God of Peace, who through thy Son Jesus Christ 141
God of Peace, whom in our passions 200
God of Wisdom, who guidest thy sons and daughters 150
God our everlasting hope, who holdest us in life 184
God our Ever-living Refuge, with grateful hearts 92
God our Father from whom we come 223
God, our Father, give to the nations of the world 128
God our Father, on this day of remembrance 199
God our Father who didst send forth thy Son 206
God our Father who didst send thy Son to be the Saviour of all men 130
God our Father who didst so love the world 257
God our Father, whose joy is ever joy in work 148
God, our great Companion 102
God, our Heavenly Father, from whom cometh down 246
God, our Heavenly Father, who didst send into the world 151
God, our Heavenly Father, who hast called to the sacred ministry of praise 1
God, our Heavenly Father, whose gift is length of days 111
God, our Ruler, give to every State a deeper sense 129
God, our Shepherd, give to the Church a new vision 138
God, our true and highest life 167
God, speak to our hearts when men faint for fear 102
God, the Creator and Preserver of all Mankind 124
God, the Creator of the fair world 216
God, the Eternal Light, the Splendour 264

PAGE
God, the Father everlasting whom the glorious hosts 196
God, the Father, good beyond all that is good 96
God, the Father of lights from whom come souls 234
God, the Father of mercies, receive thou 172
God, the Fountain of life and sun 262
God, the God of all goodness and of all grace 90
God, the Inspirer of our common worship 47
God, the King Eternal, who dividest the day 257
God, the King of Men, the Lord of Youth 110
God, the Protector of all who put their trust in thee 134
God, thou great Governor of all the world 136
God, thou Helper of the helpless 230
God, thou Mightiest Worker of the universe 147
God, to whom glory is sung 205
God, we pray for thy Church 138
God, with whom there is no darkness 267
God, who alone canst uphold the minds of men 107
God, who appointest all things to a destined and holy end 43
God, who art, and wast, and art to come 38
God, who art ever working in men's hearts 91
God, who art Peace everlasting 109
God, who art rich in mercy toward all those 65
God, who art the only Source of light and wisdom 150
God, who art the strength of thy saints 226
God, who by the life and death and rising again 243
God, who callest the peacemakers thy children 131
God, who centuries ago blessed our earth 207
God, who didst prepare of old 202
God, who didst send the Holy Spirit 191
God, who didst send thy word to speak in the Prophets 137
God, who dividest the day from the night 259
God, who givest us not only the day for labour 37
God, who hast called our nation to a place of trust 134
God, who hast commanded that no man should be idle 260
God, who hast commanded us to be perfect 100
God, who hast drawn over weary day 109
God, who hast folded back the mantle of the night 41
God, who hast formed us for fellowship one with another 72
God, who hast given the day to man to labour 267
God, who hast given us light, and who grievest 59
God, who hast made of one blood all nations of men 139
God, who hast made us a royal priesthood 144
God, who hast made us glad in the service 167
God, who hast prepared for them that love thee 115
God, who hast put a song in our hearts 79
God, who hast set the solitary in families 100
God, who hast so consecrated the state of matrimony 239
God, who hast taught us that all who draw near 198
God, who hast taught us that we are members one of another 142
God, who hatest nothing that thou hast made 142
God, who makest thyself known in the stillness 45
God, who never sleepest 265
God, who puttest into our hearts such deep desires 101
God, whose fatherly care reacheth 159

PAGE

God, whose love we dimly apprehend ... 65
God, whose most dear Son did take little children ... 233
God, whose Spirit searchest all things ... 42
Gracious Father, we humbly beseech thee for thy universal church ... 137
Gracious Father, within whose light and under the sway of whose peace ... 88
Gracious Father, who didst send forth thy Son Jesus ... 244
Gracious Father, whose mercy is higher than the heavens ... 62
Grant, O Lord, that the ears which have heard ... 246
Grant, O Lord, that this day which thou hast given ... 259
Grant, O Lord, that we may approach every question of foreign policy ... 110
Grant, O Lord, to all teachers and students ... 150
Grant that by the insight of love ... 117
Grant that we may be able to finish ... 119
Grant to us, Lord, we beseech thee, the spirit to think ... 115
Grant unto us, Almighty God, that we, communing with one another ... 44
Grant unto us, Almighty God, the peace of God ... 93
Grant us, O Lord, the help of thy Spirit in our hearts ... 1
Grant us, O Lord, to pass this day in gladness ... 257
Grant us this boon, that for every harm ... 105

Have mercy upon us, O God, according to ... 62
Heavenly Father, we beseech thee to have mercy ... 156
Heavenly Father, who art the Giver of every good ... 71
Heavenly Father, who hast filled the world with beauty ... 116
Heavenly Father, who hast given us all things richly ... 171
Heavenly Father, whose light and love search ... 203
How often we have prayed for the coming ... 63

If there has been anything in our work harmful ... 117
If thou, O Lord, shouldest mark iniquity ... 64
In submission to thy will may our purposes ... 118
In times of doubts and questionings ... 100
Into thine arms we now commend ourselves ... 266
It is very meet, right and our bounden duty ... 243

Jesus Christ, the Lord of all good life, who hast called ... 95

King of Paradise, where light abounds and life ... 228

Let nothing take us unawares ... 262
Let the words of my mouth ... 163
Lighten our darkness, we beseech thee ... 268
Lord and Father of us all, we give thanks ... 25[illegible]
Lord, be thou within us, strengthen us ... 119
Lord, by all thy dealings with us, whether of joy ... 231
Lord, from whom all good things do come ... 163
Lord God, Almighty, defend our land, we beseech thee ... 132
Lord God, in whom we live and move and have our being ... 89
Lord God of Hosts in whom our fathers trusted ... 189
Lord God of our fathers, who in thy goodness ... 135
Lord God of our life who hast given us the rest ... 167
Lord God who dwellest on high, yet delightest ... 137
Lord Jesus Christ, who art the Way, the Truth and the Life ... 95
Lord Jesus who didst come not to be ministered ... 215

PAGE
Lord of All Being, Maker and Master of the world. 104
Lord of All Might and Compassion, who knowest our frame..... 61
Lord of All Power and Might 115
Lord of All Worlds who art also our Father in heaven..... 171
Lord of life and death, in whose hand our breath is..... 232
Lord of Life who dwellest in eternity 225
Lord of Love who art not far away 158
Lord of our life and Disposer of our lot!..... 98
Lord of the evening hour, who hast often met with us 49
Lord of the nations, who hast broken down in Christ the wall..... 139
Lord our God, great, eternal, wonderful in glory who keepest covenant..... 35
Lord our God, refresh us with quiet sleep 269
Lord our God, satisfy us in the morning with thy mercy 39
Lord our God, who art always more ready to bestow..... 36
Lord our God, who art in every place 158
Lord our God, who hast bidden the light to shine out of darkness 35
Lord our God, who hast promised that in all places 45
Lord our God, who through thy Son Jesus Christ hast consecrated labour..... 146
Lord our God, who turnest into morning the shadows of night 44
Lord our Heavenly Father, at the beginning of another week 36
Lord our Heavenly Father, the high and mighty Ruler of the universe 135
Lord our Heavenly Father, we offer and present unto thee. 91
Lord our Heavenly Father, without whom all purposes 230
Lord our Saviour, who hast warned us that thou wilt require.... 104
Lord, renew our spirits and draw 262
Lord, Shield of our help 112
Lord, so prepare our hearts that no affliction. 116
Lord, strengthen and support, we entreat thee. 156
Lord, support us all the day long of our troublous life 224
Lord, we go to our daily work.. 258
Lord, we humbly beseech thee that thou who hast taught us to pray 143
Lord, who hast brought us through the darkness of night 37
Lord, who hast set before us the great hope that thy kingdom 77
Lord, who hast set mankind in families and nations. 78
Lord, who hast taught us that all our doings without charity..... 115
Lord, who watchest over thy children.... 266
Lord, whose way is perfect, help us we pray thee..... 108
Loving God, our Father, whose promise 252

Make us ready for the great adventure of living..... 101
May the Lord be our light, and in the abundance.. 225
May the strength of God pilot us.. 119
May we fear to be unfaithful 117
May we possess our souls in patience 118
Merciful Father, who in compassion for thy sinful children..... 183
Merciful Father, who willest not thy children should wander..... 163
Merciful Father, who willest not thy children to wander.. 97
Most Compassionate God, who bearest upon thy heart..... 106
Most Gracious Father, who withholdest no good thing.. 74
Most Gracious God, by whose appointment the seasons 201
Most Gracious God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ..... 244
Most Gracious God, to know and love whose will is righteousness.. 115
Most Gracious God, we beseech thee for all who are near and dear. 157
Most Gracious God, who art ever more ready to hear.... 46

PAGE

Most Gracious God, who hast made us stewards of thy bounty 79
Most High and Mighty Ruler of the Universe 201
Most Holy and Merciful Father, we acknowledge and confess 59
Most Holy and Merciful Father, we give thee hearty thanks 251
Most Holy and Merciful God, our Heavenly Father 245
Most Holy and Most Gracious God who turnest the shadow of night into morning 41
Most Loving Father, who willest us to give thanks for all things 108
Most Merciful and Gracious God, of whom the whole family in heaven . 240
Most Merciful Father, we have done little to forward thy kingdom 63
Most Merciful Father who hast set us in communities 145
Most Mighty God and Merciful Father, who hast compassion on all men . . 58
Most Potent King of Kings and Lord of Lords whose glory is incomprehensible 108

Once more a new day lies before 258
Open thou our lips, O Lord, and our mouths 1
Our Father, as on this day we keep the special memory 185
Our Father in Heaven, whose pity is infinite 222
Our Father, may the world not mold us today 116
Our Father, we thank thee for all the benefits 75
Our Father, we thank thee for all the friendly folk 81
Our Heavenly Father, who art waiting 222
Our Heavenly Father, who hast mercifully 206
Our Heavenly Father, who through thy Son hast taught us to pray for daily bread 148

Pardon all that we have done in wilful 58
Prevent us, O Lord, in all our doings 114

Remember, O Lord, the nation to which we belong 132

Sanctify, O Lord, both our coming in 167
Save us from feeling after thee in vain 103
Send thy peace into our hearts 268
Set apart, we beseech thee, O Lord, these thy servants 214
Since it is of thy mercy, O Gracious Father 262
So help us, we implore thee, while we stand still 262
Spirit of all grace and benediction 189
Spirit of spirits! Light of lights! 96

Take from us, O God, all pride and vanity 104
Take us out of our own power, by winning our hearts 90
Take us, we pray thee, O Lord of our life 268
Teach us, good Lord, to serve thee as thou deservest 118
Teach us that it is better to give 118
Teach us that no evil is intolerable 117
Teach us to put to good account 117
Teach us to seek after truth and enable us to gain it 117
The day returns and brings us the petty round 258
Thine, O Lord, is the day, and thine is the night 48
Thou Almighty One, who art the one God and Father 125
Thou callest us to delight in thy praise 116
Thou eternal believer in men, who canst make all things new 64
Thou Eternal, in whose appointment our life standeth 92
Thou Eternal Spirit, who hast set our noisy years in the heart of eternity 41
Thou from whom to be turned away is to fall 116

PAGE

Thou God of Love, who makest thy sun to rise 112
Thou God of Truth in this time of confusion 192
Thou great Source of Truth and Knowledge 151
Thou Holy One, who inhabitest eternity, visit us 44
Thou, in whom we live and move and have our being 41
Thou in whose life we find our life 46
Thou Lord of all Worlds, we bless thy name 227
Thou who art from everlasting to everlasting without beginning 180
Thou who art from everlasting to everlasting, whom finite 260
Thou who art Love and who seest all the sufferings 154
Thou who art the confidence of the ends of the earth 157
Thou who art the God of all comfort 229
Thou who art the Life of all that lives 98
Thou who art the Light of the minds that know thee 115
Thou who art the Mind of all creation 155
Thou who art the one God and Father of all 105
Thou who art the Providence of the World 134
Thou who dwellest in the light invisible 72
Thou who hast compassed all the pathways 76
Thou who hast taught us that we are most truly free 104
Thou who makest the stars 189
Thou who rulest by thy providence over land and sea 139
Thou who sendest forth the light 257
Thou who settest the solitary in families 195
Thou who understandest the frailty 154
Thou whose chosen dwelling is the heart 48
Thou whose glory filleth all things! 102
Thou whose infinite majesty looketh on us from the heavens 90
Thou, whose never failing providence ordereth all things 76
Thou, whose Word hath appeared 184
Though we know not what is best 117
Touch our eyes, O Lord, with clearness 99

Watch thou, dear Lord, with those who wake 265
We ask thee not, O Lord, to rid us of pain 107
We beseech thee, Lord, to behold us with favour 109
We beseech thee, O Lord, that thou wilt bring all mankind 196
We bless thee for the inspired souls of all ages 141
We call to mind, O God, before thy throne 158
We give thee humble and grateful thanks 74
We invoke thy grace and wisdom, O Lord, upon all 146
We know, Lord, as we lay our friends away 232
We know not what a day may bring forth 105
We lift our souls to thee, for thou art our Father 231
We praise and bless thy glorious name, O Lord 76
We pray for all that mourn 229
We pray for those who, under diverse forms and differing administrations 152
We pray, O Lord, that thou wilt so reveal thyself in us 127
We pray thee for those who amid all the knowledge 149
We thank thee for the dear and faithful dead 227
We thank thee for the good things of this life 75
We thank thee, O God, for the endless renewing 260
We thank thee, Our Father, for life and love, for the mystery and majesty 80
With our whole heart we give thee thanks 73

INDEX OF AUTHORS AND ANTHOLOGIES

Acts of Devotion, 128, 129, 135, 136, 146, 154, 155. [90]*
Alcuinus, Albinus Flaccus, 57. [46]
Alford, Henry, 100, 118. [67]
Andrewes, Bishop Lancelot, 119, 257, 268. [82]
Anthology of Prayers for Public Worship, 229. [122]
Aquinas, St. Thomas, 118. [78]
Arnold, Thomas, 117, 266. [74] [147]
Augustine, St., 31, 104, 116, 124, 265. [6]

Baring-Gould, S., 177, 192. [108]
Benson, Louis F., 262, 263. [133] [145]
Bersier, Eugene, 56, 154. [44]
Bible, 5–27, 62. [117] [118]
Binyon, Gilbert Clive, 179. [110]
Bisseker, H., 257. [149]
Book of Church Services, 58, 131, 149, 151, 157, 189, 193, 201. [48]
Book of Common Order, 31, 34, 48, 56, 63, 71, 86, 93, 94, 95, 157, 177, 188, 191, 196, 202, 243, 259, 267, 268. [13]
Book of Common Order of St. Giles' Cathedral, 36. [29]
Book of Common Prayer, The, 36, 55, 57, 58, 69, 70, 87, 114, 115, 116, 131, 135, 159, 163, 183, 187, 188, 222, 224, 227, 228, 230, 233, 239, 243, 257, 262. [27]
Book of Common Worship (Dutton and Co.), 1, 102, 153, 155, 156, 177, 178, 179, 190, 198, 252. [5]
Book of Common Worship, The (Presbyterian), 33, 69, 155, 175, 183, 222, 226, 268. [2]
Book of Common Worship, The (Presbyterian, Revised edition), 44, 50, 55, 59, 87, 97, 104, 113, 114, 132, 150, 180, 183, 191, 201, 213, 214, 215, 222, 239, 240, 244, 251, 259. [3]
Book of Hours, 37, 177. [31]
Book of Offices and Prayers, 1, 41, 69, 72, 106, 123, 130, 136, 199, 221. [4]
Book of Prayers, 1851, 180. [112]
Book of Prayers for Students, A, 69, 78, 134, 139, 140. [52]
Brent, Bishop Charles H., 41, 109, 228. [34]
Bright, William, 36, 98, 108. [28]
Brooks, Bishop Phillips, 231. [123]
Brown, William Adams, 260. [138]
Bunsen, Baron Christian C. J., 179. [111]

Calvin, John, 153. [143]
Cameron, Hugh, 32, 33, 43, 44, 55, 56, 61, 62, 69, 70, 72, 73, 74, 86, 88, 89, 97, 124, 156, 175, 177, 182, 244, 247. [17]
Carpenter, Bishop William Boyd, 159, 167. [103]
Channing, William Ellery, 117. [75]
Child, C. J. N., 118. [79]
Chrysostom, St., 35. [22]
Coffin, Henry Sloane, 228, 233, 234. [121]
Collyer, Robert, 262. [127]
Cooper, Anthony Ashley, Earl of Shaftesbury, 123. [87]
Coptic Liturgy of St. Basil, 32, 35. [24]
Coptic Liturgy of St. Cyril, 87, 178. [60]
Cotton, Bishop George, 139. [96]

Dallas, Bishop John T., 176. [105]
Dawson, George, 34, 38, 56, 85, 86, 87, 88, 93, 176, 258. [21]
Dearmer, Percy, 138. [95]
Diocese of Canterbury, 131. [134]
Dionysius, St., 96. [8]
Directory and Forms for Public Worship, 31, 32, 55, 69, 70, 72, 85, 123, 175, 178, 246, 253. [14]
Directory of Worship, 222. [129]

* The figure in brackets throughout this index refers to the reference number in the list of Sources on page 273.

Ellis, Rufus, 209, 225, 227, 229, 231, 232. [116]
Erasmus, Desiderius, 31, 95. [10]

Farnham Hostel Manual of Prayer, 90. [65]
Federation of Working Girls' Clubs, 123. [84]
Fitch, Albert Parker, 45, 75, 110, 182. [38]
Foote, Henry Wilder, 176. [107]

Gelasian Sacramentary, 31, 104, 113, 114, 115, 123, 163, 178, 268. [7]
Gothic Missal, 179. [109]
Goulburn, Dean, 155. [100]
Greek Church Liturgy, 35. [23]
Green, R. G., 175. [104]
Gregorian Sacramentary, 36, 85, 114, 179. [26]
Gunning, Bishop, 124. [89]

Halsey, Jesse, 200. [130]
Hamilton, Archbishop, 158. [101]
Hickes, Bishop George, 124, 178. [88]
Hort, F. J. A., 227. [119]
Hoyland, J. S., 112. [120]
Hunter, John, 32, 39, 40, 41, 48, 49, 55, 60, 69, 70, 85, 112, 116, 123, 158, 163, 175, 179, 181, 185, 187, 198, 209, 221, 245. [15]

Industrial Christian Fellowship, 148. [99]

Jenks, Benjamin, 118, 119, 262. [80]
Johnson, Samuel, 70, 88, 124, 230. [53] [63]
Jones, R. C., 55, 59, 105. [42]
Jowett, John Henry, 116. [71]

Kempis, Thomas à, 119, 150. [83] [142]
Kingdom, the Power, and the Glory, The, 33, 76, 77, 91, 95, 106, 124, 127, 143, 153, 167, 197, 265. [19]
Kingsley, Charles, 104. [69]
Knight, William Angus, 89, 97, 98, 117, 124, 205. [64]

Laud, Archbishop, 137. [94]
Leighton, Archbishop Robert, 31. [11]
Leonine Sacramentary, 57, 115, 269. [47]
Liturgy of Malabar, 246. [126]
Liturgy of St. James, 243. [125]
Loyola, Ignatius, 118. [77]
Lyttleton, Lord H. W., 31. [12]

Manual of the Guild of St. Barnabas, 116. [73]
Manual of Meditation, 47. [45]
Manual of Prayers for Unity, 141. [98]
Martin, Sir William, 158. [102]
Martineau, James, 37, 38, 56, 58, 90, 92, 96, 98, 99, 102, 103, 105, 111, 133, 137, 178, 183, 184, 222, 230, 258. [32]
McComb, Samuel, 41, 60, 222, 232. [35]
McKee, Elmore McNeil, 34, 47, 55, 64, 87, 100, 175, 178, 179, 222. [20]
Merrill, William P., 223. [150]
Monsell, John S. B., 176. [106]
Moule, Bishop Handley C. G., 123, 262. [86]
Mozarabic Sacramentary, 85, 88, 119, 178, 180, 205, 257, 264. [51]

Nash, Henry Sylvester, 102, 107. [68]
Newman, Cardinal John Henry, 224. [124]
Newton, Joseph Fort, 38. [144]
Niebuhr, Reinhold, 64, 80, 144. [49]
Noyes, Morgan Phelps, 65, 79, 80, 106, 150, 185, 186, 190, 194, 195, 200, 203, 204, 207, 216. [50]

Orchard, William E. (*The Order of Divine Service for Public Worship*), 86, 124, 126, 176, 177, 180, 181, 189, 196. [41]
Orchard, William E. (*The Temple*), 33, 42, 49, 55, 63, 142. [18]
Oxenden, Bishop Axton, 88. [62]
Ould, Fielding, 266. [148]

Paget, Bishop Francis, 130. [93]
Patrick, Bishop Simon, 85, 117. [58]
Patrick, St., 119. [81]
Peabody, Francis Greenwood, 46, 50, 101, 143, 147, 152, 206, 222, 233. [40]
Prayer Book (Church of Scotland), 123. [85]
Prayers for the Christian Home, 192, 198. [114]
Prayers for the Christian Year, 46, 63, 91, 179, 185, 192, 199, 203, 206, 245, 260. [39]
Pusey, E. B., 118. [76]

Rauschenbusch, Walter, 81, 105, 117, 129, 136, 138, 141, 146, 147, 149, 151, 177, 178, 258, 264, 266. [56]
Ridding, Bishop George, 100. [66]
Ridley, Bishop Nicholas, 31. [9]
Rogers, Robert W., 129. [133]
Roman Breviary, 85, 88, 115, 124, 176. [57]
Rossetti, Christina G., 85, 88, 103, 108, 112, 156, 176. [59]
Rugby Office, 71. [54]

Sarum Breviary, 36, 56, 163, 177. [25]
Saunderson, Henry Hallam, 171, 187, 194, 251. [113]
Scottish Collects of 1595, 108. [131]
Service Book and Ordinal of the Presbyterian Church of South Africa, 32, 39, 49, 94, 109, 125, 132, 167, 171, 172, 175, 189, 202, 206. [16]
Services for Congregational Worship, 44, 76, 101, 134, 225, 260. [36]
Sherrill, Bishop Henry K., 148. [140]
Simpson, Hubert, 1, 70, 75, 179, 188, 252. [1]
Slattery, Bishop Charles Lewis, 45, 259, 266. [37]
Society for the Propagation of Christian Knowledge, 142. [141]
Stevenson, Robert Louis, 109, 258. [70]
Stobart, H., 69, 81, 176, 265, 267, 269. [55]

Taylor, Jeremy, 56, 137, 264. [43] [136] [146]
Tracts for Christian Seasons, 208. [115]

van Dyke, Henry, 139. [137]

Watson, John, 38, 48, 71, 126, 145, 150, 157, 227, 228. [33]
Westcott, Bishop Brooke Foss, 36, 89, 110, 117. [30]
Williams, Rowland, 87, 88, 117. [61]
Wilson, Bishop Thomas, 116. [72]
Wilson, Warren H., 140. [139]

CONCISE TOPICAL INDEX

The numbers in this index refer to the pages on which particular prayers begin. In some cases the material referred to is in a portion of the prayer which has run over to the following page.

Absent, The:
Address to the Deity, 123.
Prayer of Intercession, 157, 158, 159.
Prayers for Week-Day Services, 266.
Advent:
Call to Worship, 24, 25.
Address to the Deity, 124, 125, 179.
Prayers for Special Days and Seasons, 202, 203, 204.
Adversity:
Address to the Deity, 32, 86.
Prayer of Thanksgiving, 72.
Prayer of Petition, 116.
Prayer of Intercession, 124, 134, 144, 153, 154, 155, 156, 157.
Prayers for Special Days and Seasons, 183, 184, 185, 187.
Age:
Address to the Deity, 85.
Prayer of Petition, 99, 111.
Prayer of Intercession, 125, 157.
All Saints' Day:
Address to the Deity, 179, 221, 222.
Prayers for Special Days and Seasons, 196, 197, 198.
Prayers for the Funeral Service, 227, 228.
Anxiety:
Call to Worship, 10, 11, 25.
Address to the Deity, 87.
Prayer of Invocation, 41, 49, 50.
Prayer of Petition, 89, 90, 92, 93, 99, 105, 108.
Prayers for Week-Day Services, 262, 264, 265, 266, 268.
Armistice Day:
Call to Worship, 5, 20, 21, 22.
Prayer of Intercession, 128, 129, 130, 131.
Prayers for Special Days and Seasons, 199, 200.
Art:
Prayer of Intercession, 126, 127, 144.
Ash Wednesday:
Prayers for Special Days and Seasons, 183.

Baptism:
Prayers for Services of, 251.
Beauty:
Call to Worship, 6, 19, 26.
Address to Deity, 34, 178.
Prayer of Invocation, 39.
Prayer of Confession, 60.
Prayer of Thanksgiving, 75, 80.
Prayer of Petition, 106, 116.
Prayer of Intercession, 126.
Bereavement:
Address to the Deity, 221, 222.
Prayers for the Funeral Service, 222, 223, 224, 225, 226, 227, 228, 229, 230, 231, 232, 233, 234, 235.
Brotherhood:
Address to the Deity, 123, 124.
Prayer of Thanksgiving, 77, 80, 81.
Prayer of Intercession, 129, 132, 133, 134, 135, 136, 139, 142, 143, 144, 146, 147, 148, 149.
Business:
Prayer of Intercession, 143, 146.

Children:
Call to Worship, 21.
Prayer of Intercession, 126, 134, 151, 157, 158.
Prayers for Special Days and Seasons, 193.
Prayers for the Funeral Service, 233.
Prayers for the Service of Baptism, 251, 252.
Christmas:
Call to Worship, 26, 27.
Address to the Deity, 179, 180.
Prayers for Special Days and Seasons, 205, 206, 207.

Church:
Call to Worship, 5, 7.
Address to the Deity, 32.
Prayer of Invocation, 35, 37, 43, 45, 47.
Prayer of Thanksgiving, 77.
Prayer of Petition, 91.
Prayer of Intercession, 124, 126, 127, 137, 138, 140, 141.
Prayers for Special Days and Seasons, 191, 192.
Prayers for Special Services, 213, 214, 215, 216.
Comfort:
Call to Worship, 8, 26.
Address to the Deity, 86, 87, 221, 222.
Prayer of Invocation, 49, 50.
Prayer of Thanksgiving, 71, 72, 76.
Prayer of Petition, 95.
Prayer of Intercession, 124, 153, 155, 156, 157.
Prayers for the Funeral Service, 222, 223, 229, 231, 234.
Communion:
Call to Worship, 12, 13, 14, 20.
Prayer of Invocation, 40, 42, 44, 46.
Prayers for the Communion Service, 243, 244, 245, 246, 247.
Communion of Saints:
Call to Worship, 20.
Address to the Deity, 179, 221.
Prayer of Invocation, 38, 49.
Prayer of Thanksgiving, 72, 73, 74, 75.
Prayer of Petition, 92.
Prayers for Special Days and Seasons, 190, 196, 197, 198.
Prayers for the Funeral Service, 225, 226, 227, 228.
Confession, Prayers of, 55.
Confidence:
Call to Worship, 9, 16.
Address to the Deity, 87.
Prayer of Invocation, 43.
Prayer of Petition, 89, 93, 106, 109, 116.
Prayers for the Funeral Service, 224.
Prayers for Week-Day Services, 266, 268, 269.
Consecration:
Call to Worship, 8, 9, 10, 11, 13, 15, 16, 17.
Address to the Deity, 86.
Prayer of Invocation, 40, 42, 46.
Prayer of Thanksgiving, 70, 71, 76, 80.
Prayer of Petition, 90, 91, 92, 96, 97, 100, 102, 103, 104, 107, 110, 118.
Prayer After Offering, 171, 172.
Prayers for the Service of Baptism, 252, 253.
Prayers for Week-Day Services, 258, 260, 262.
Courage:
Call to Worship, 5.
Prayer of Invocation, 41.
Prayer of Confession, 63, 65.
Prayer of Thanksgiving, 75, 80.
Prayer of Petition, 91, 95, 99, 100, 101, 104, 109, 127.
Prayers for Week-Day Services, 258.
Cross, The:
Call to Worship, 14, 17, 18.
Address to the Deity, 32, 49, 176.
Prayer of Petition, 90, 92, 94, 99.
Prayers for Special Days and Seasons, 184, 185, 187, 188.
Duty:
Call to Worship, 85, 87.
Address to the Deity, 56, 87.
Prayer of Invocation, 48.
Prayer of Confession, 61.
Prayer of Thanksgiving, 73, 78.
Prayer of Petition, 96, 103.
Prayers for Week-Day Services, 258, 259.
Easter:
Call to Worship, 18.
Address to the Deity, 176, 177.
Prayers for Special Days and Seasons, 188, 189.
Election Day:
Prayers for Special Days and Seasons, 198, 199.
Eternal Life:
Call to Worship, 10, 18, 20.
Address to the Deity, 33, 56, 85, 86, 88, 176, 177, 178, 221, 222.
Prayer of Invocation, 47.
Prayer of Thanksgiving, 73.
Prayer of Petition, 94, 101, 102.
Prayer of Intercession, 125, 126.
Prayers for Special Days and Seasons, 188, 189, 190, 196, 197, 198.
Prayers for the Funeral Service, 223, 225, 227, 228, 229, 234.
Evening:
Call to Worship, 11, 12.
Prayer of Invocation, 48, 49, 50.
Prayer of Thanksgiving, 81.
Prayer of Petition, 109.

Prayers for Week-Day Services, 262, 263, 264, 265, 266, 267, 268, 269.
Faith:
Call to Worship, 7, 11, 15.
Prayer of Invocation, 40, 41.
Prayer of Thanksgiving, 73, 79, 80.
Prayer of Petition, 89, 91, 93, 98, 101, 102.
Prayers for the Funeral Service, 227, 228, 230, 232.
Prayers for Week-Day Services, 264, 265, 266, 267, 268, 269.
Faithfulness:
Call to Worship, 23.
Address to the Deity, 88.
Prayer of Petition, 94, 99, 100, 103, 117, 119.
Prayers for Special Days and Seasons, 185.
Family:
Call to Worship, 19.
Address to the Deity, 123.
Prayer of Thanksgiving, 71, 72, 73, 74, 75, 79.
Prayer of Intercession, 126, 157, 158.
Forgiveness:
Call to Worship, 8, 9, 16.
Address to the Deity, 55, 56.
Prayer of Invocation, 35, 40, 42, 48, 50.
Prayer of Confession, 57, 58.
Prayer of Petition, 89, 90, 100, 105, 109.
Prayer of Intercession, 130, 158.
Prayers for the Funeral Service, 232.
Prayers for Week-Day Services, 262, 264.
Friends:
Address to the Deity, 123.
Prayer of Thanksgiving, 72, 74, 79, 81.
Prayer of Petition, 109.
Prayer of Intercession, 157, 158.
Funeral Services, Prayers for, 221.

Generosity:
Call to Worship, 24.
Address to the Deity, 123.
Prayer of Petition, 94, 104, 118.
Prayer After Offering, 171, 172.
Good Friday:
Call to Worship, 17, 18.
Prayers for Special Days and Seasons, 187, 188.
Government:
Prayer of Intercession, 126, 129, 131, 132, 133, 135, 136, 144.
Prayers for Special Days and Seasons, 198, 199.
Gratitude:
Call to Worship, 12, 13, 15, 18, 23, 24.
Address to the Deity, 69, 70, 87, 177.
Prayer of Invocation, 35, 40, 49.
Prayer of Confession, 60.
Prayer of Thanksgiving, 70, 71, 72, 73, 74, 75, 76, 77, 78, 79, 80, 81.
Prayer of Petition, 92, 104, 108.
Prayer After Offering, 171, 172.
Prayers for Special Days and Seasons, 193, 194, 195, 201, 202.
Guidance:
Call to Worship, 20, 23.
Address to the Deity, 33, 34, 86, 87, 124, 176.
Prayer of Invocation, 38, 48, 50.
Prayer of Thanksgiving, 76.
Prayer of Petition, 89, 91, 97, 98, 113, 116, 117, 119.
Prayer of Intercession, 126, 131.
Prayer Before Sermon, 163.
Prayers for Special Days and Seasons, 192.
Prayers for Week-Day Services, 257, 258, 260.

Healing:
Prayer of Thanksgiving, 71, 78.
Prayer of Petition, 106, 114.
Prayer of Intercession, 125, 126, 153, 155, 156.
Help, Divine:
Call to Worship, 7, 19.
Address to the Deity, 31, 32, 85, 86, 87, 88, 175, 176, 221, 222.
Prayer of Invocation, 41.
Prayer of Thanksgiving, 71, 73, 74.
Prayer of Petition, 90, 92, 94, 95, 98, 102, 107, 108, 110, 112, 114, 115, 116, 118.
Prayer After Sermon, 167.
Prayers for the Funeral Service, 222, 230.
Prayers for Week-Day Services, 257, 258, 259, 260, 262.
Holy Spirit:
Call to Worship, 9, 18, 19.
Address to the Deity, 33, 34, 177, 179.
Prayer of Invocation, 36, 47.
Prayer of Confession, 60.
Prayer of Thanksgiving, 72, 74, 76, 77, 81.
Prayer of Petition, 91, 95, 115.
Prayer of Intercession, 125, 137, 139.

Prayer Before Sermon, 163.
Prayer After Sermon, 167.
Prayers for Special Days and Seasons, 191, 192.
Hope:
Call to Worship, 7, 24.
Address to the Deity, 32, 88, 123, 124.
Prayer of Thanksgiving, 70, 73, 76, 77, 79.
Prayer of Petition, 90, 92, 96, 101, 102.
Humility:
Address to the Deity, 176.
Prayer of Petition, 95, 96, 104, 140.

Intercession, Prayers of, 123.
Invocation, Prayers of, 31.

Joy:
Call to Worship, 5, 6, 11, 12, 15, 17, 23, 25, 26, 27.
Address to the Deity, 33, 55, 87.
Prayer of Invocation, 39, 41, 43, 44.
Prayer of Thanksgiving, 74, 76.
Prayer of Petition, 93, 106, 114, 116, 117, 119.
Prayer of Intercession, 127.
Prayers for Week-Day Services, 257, 258, 259.

Kingdom of God:
Call to Worship, 9, 21.
Address to the Deity, 124.
Prayer of Confession, 63.
Prayer of Thanksgiving, 73, 76, 77.
Prayer of Petition, 95, 101.
Prayer of Intercession, 137, 138, 140, 141.

Labour Day:
Call to Worship, 22, 23.
Address to the Deity, 178.
Prayers for Special Days and Seasons, 196.
Lent:
Call to Worship, 15, 16.
Address to the Deity, 176.
Prayers for Special Days and Seasons, 183, 184, 185.
Liberty:
Call to Worship, 22.
Address to the Deity, 32, 87.
Prayer of Invocation, 38, 39.
Prayer of Petition, 89, 104, 115.
Prayer of Intercession, 131.
Prayers for Special Days and Seasons, 194.

Light:
Call to Worship, 11, 12, 20, 26.
Address to the Deity, 31, 34, 56, 85, 86, 87, 88, 124.
Prayer of Invocation, 35, 36, 37, 41, 43, 44.
Prayer of Confession, 59.
Prayer of Thanksgiving, 72, 73, 76.
Prayer of Petition, 88, 89, 93, 97, 98, 99.
Prayer Before Sermon, 163.
Prayers for Week-Day Services, 257, 258, 259, 262, 268.
Love:
Call to Worship, 9, 20.
Address to the Deity, 85, 87, 88, 123, 124.
Prayer of Invocation, 42.
Prayer of Confession, 60, 63.
Prayer of Thanksgiving, 70, 71, 76, 79.
Prayer of Petition, 90, 95, 102, 105, 115, 117, 118.
Prayer of Intercession, 125.
Loyalty:
Prayer of Confession, 63.
Prayer of Petition, 90, 91, 92, 95, 101, 102, 105, 117, 118.

Marriage Services, Prayers for, 239.
Memorial Day:
Call to Worship, 20.
Address to the Deity, 31.
Prayer of Invocation, 38.
Prayers for Special Days and Seasons, 189, 190.
Prayers for the Funeral Service, 227, 228.
Ministry, The:
Prayer of Intercession, 144, 152.
Prayers for Special Services, 213, 214.
Prayers for the Funeral Service, 234.
Missions:
Call to Worship, 5, 8, 9, 17, 18, 19, 21, 22, 23, 24, 25, 26, 27.
Address to the Deity, 33, 55, 70, 123, 124.
Prayer of Intercession, 128, 137, 139, 140, 206.
Morning:
Call to Worship, 6, 12, 20, 26.
Prayer of Invocation, 37, 43, 44.
Prayers for Week-Day Services, 257, 258, 259, 260, 261, 262.
Music:
Prayer for a Choir, 1.
Call to Worship, 6, 11, 24.

Prayer of Intercession, 126.
Prayers for Special Services, 216.

Nation, The:
Call to Worship, 21, 22.
Address to the Deity, 177, 178.
Prayer of Intercession, 149.
Prayers for Special Days and Seasons, 189, 190, 193, 194, 195, 198, 199.
New Year:
Call to Worship, 14, 15.
Address to the Deity, 87, 175.
Prayer for the Day, 180, 181, 182.

Old Year
Call to Worship, 14, 15.
Address to the Deity, 175.
Prayers for Special Days and Seasons, 208, 209.

Palm Sunday:
Call to Worship, 17.
Address to the Deity, 176.
Prayers for Special Days and Seasons, 185, 186.
Parents:
Address to the Deity, 123.
Prayer of Thanksgiving, 72, 75.
Prayer of Intercession, 126.
Prayers for the Funeral Service, 232.
Patience:
Prayer of Petition, 98, 101, 109, 110, 117, 118.
Prayer of Intercession, 130.
Peace, Industrial:
Call to Worship, 22, 27.
Address to the Deity, 123, 124.
Prayer of Intercession, 131, 142.
Peace, International:
Call to Worship, 17, 21, 22, 26, 27.
Address to the Deity, 123, 124, 177, 178.
Prayer of Confession, 64.
Prayer of Petition, 95, 110.
Prayer of Intercession, 126, 128, 129, 130, 131, 140.
Prayers for Special Days and Seasons, 199, 200.
Peace, Inward:
Call to Worship, 5, 8, 11, 25.
Address to the Deity, 87.
Prayer of Invocation, 36, 38, 41, 48, 49.
Prayer of Confession, 62.
Prayer of Petition, 88, 89, 93, 99, 101, 106, 108, 109, 112, 113, 116, 117.
Prayers for Week-Day Services, 257, 264, 266, 267, 268, 269.
Penitence:
Call to Worship, 8, 9, 16.
Address to the Deity, 55, 56.
Prayer of Confession, 57, 58, 59, 60, 61, 62, 63, 64, 65, 66.
Prayers for the Funeral Service, 232.
Prayers for the Communion Service, 243.
Prayers for Week-Day Services, 262, 264.
Pentecost:
Call to Worship, 18, 19.
Address to the Deity, 177.
Prayers for Special Days and Seasons, 191, 192.
Petition, Prayers of, 85.
Physicians and Nurses:
Prayer of Intercession, 126, 153.

Quietness:
Call to Worship, 5, 8, 16.
Address to the Deity, 87.
Prayer of Invocation, 36, 38, 45.
Prayer of Petition, 89, 93, 108, 112, 113, 116.
Prayers for Week-Day Services, 268.

Rest and Sleep:
Call to Worship, 9, 11, 13, 16.
Address to the Deity, 31.
Prayer of Invocation, 36, 38, 48, 50.
Prayer of Petition, 90, 93, 95, 97, 109, 113, 116.
Prayer of Intercession, 147.
Prayer After Sermon, 167.
Prayers for Week-Day Services, 266, 267, 268, 269.
Resurrection:
Prayer of Thanksgiving, 77.
Prayer of Petition, 94.
Prayers for Special Days and Seasons, 188, 189.
Reverence:
Call to Worship, 5, 6, 9, 10, 20.
Address to the Deity, 32, 34.
Prayer of Invocation, 36, 42, 44.
Prayer of Confession, 66.
Prayer of Thanksgiving, 77.
Prayer of Petition, 95, 106.
Righteousness, Personal:
Call to Worship, 13, 21, 22.
Address to the Deity, 32.
Prayer of Invocation, 35.

Prayer of Confession, 57, 58, 59, 60, 61, 62, 63, 64, 65, 66.
Prayer of Petition, 95, 101.
Prayers for Week-Day Services, 257, 258, 259, 260.
Righteousness, Social:
Call to Worship, 16, 22.
Address to the Deity, 123, 124, 178.
Prayer of Confession, 62, 63, 64, 65.
Prayer of Thanksgiving, 73, 76, 77, 78, 80, 81.
Prayer of Petition, 106, 110.
Prayer of Intercession, 125, 127, 131, 132, 133, 134, 135, 136, 141, 142, 143, 144, 145, 149.
Prayers for Special Days and Seasons, 194, 195, 196.
Prayers for Week-Day Services, 261, 263.

Sorrow:
Address to the Deity, 32, 86, 221, 222.
Prayer of Thanksgiving, 72.
Prayer of Petition, 90, 109, 116.
Prayer of Intercession, 134, 153, 157.
Prayers for the Funeral Service, 222, 229, 230, 231.
Special Days and Seasons, Prayers for, 175.
Special Services, Prayers for, 213.
Strength:
Call to Worship, 13, 18, 21, 25.
Address to the Deity, 31, 56, 85, 86, 88.
Prayer of Invocation, 37, 44.
Prayer of Confession, 60, 63.
Prayer of Thanksgiving, 71, 80.
Prayer of Petition, 98, 109, 116, 119.
Prayers for the Funeral Service, 230.
Prayers for Week-Day Services, 258, 259.
Sympathy:
Prayer of Petition, 92, 96, 98, 100.
Prayer of Intercession, 133, 134, 148, 149, 154, 155.

Teachers and Scholars:
Address to the Deity, 31, 32, 34.
Prayer of Thanksgiving, 72, 73.
Prayer of Petition, 100.
Prayer of Intercession, 126, 144, 150.
Thanksgiving Day:
Call to Worship, 23, 24.
Address to the Deity, 69, 70.
Prayer of Thanksgiving, 70, 71, 72, 73, 74, 75, 76, 77, 78, 79, 80, 81.
Prayer of Intercession, 149.
Prayers for Special Days and Seasons, 193, 194, 195, 201, 202.
Thanksgiving, Prayers of, 69.
Travellers:
Address to the Deity, 70, 123.
Prayer of Invocation, 35.
Prayer of Intercession, 157, 158.
Truth:
Call to Worship, 9, 14, 24.
Address to the Deity, 31, 32, 86, 178.
Prayer of Invocation, 39, 48.
Prayer of Confession, 62, 64.
Prayer of Thanksgiving, 76, 77.
Prayer of Petition, 91, 94, 95, 100, 106, 117, 151.
Prayer Before Sermon, 163.
Prayers for Special Days and Seasons, 192.

Unemployed:
Prayer of Intercession, 143, 147, 148.
Prayers for Special Days and Seasons, 196.
Unity, Christian:
Address to the Deity, 123, 124.
Prayer of Invocation, 47.
Prayer of Petition, 96, 105.
Prayer of Intercession, 124, 137, 138, 139, 141.

Week-Day Services, Prayers for, 257.
Wisdom:
Prayer of Petition, 97, 99, 119.
Prayer of Intercession, 136, 149, 150.
Workers:
Call to Worship, 22, 23.
Address to the Deity, 85, 87, 123, 124, 178.
Prayer of Petition, 103.
Prayer of Intercession, 126, 142, 143, 144, 146, 147.
Prayers for Special Days and Seasons, 196.

Youth:
Call to Worship, 21.
Prayer of Thanksgiving, 75, 80.
Prayer of Petition, 99, 110.
Prayer of Intercession, 150.
Prayers for the Funeral Service, 233.